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## WHITE-FLOWERED PERENNIALS.

**W**HITE FLOWERS are always at a premium, except during Christmas week, when red ones in their turn, are above par. A really good collection of graceful and lavish-blooming white flowered perennials give to their owner a very large proportion of the summer's pleasure, and keep it up as a sweet continued story for years.

The white wreaths and plumes of the shrubby spiræas are just passing in spring when the perennial forms take up the same loved theme and continue it for weeks, through exquisite variations. Spiræa aruncus is a native of our woods and meadows; its great creamy plumes shake out their sprays in time with our early blue and yellow iris, so that a pet pian of ours just now is to establish some wild clumps in the midst of this iris bed, which already includes hemerocallis of several shades, white and blue day lilies, red monardas and Japan anemones.

Spiræa filipendula is prettier even than S. aruncus, and much more valuable for cutting, ranking with Achillea The Pearl in this respect. The stems are so long and slender, the double white flowers so pure and elegant, the white buds so dainty! The close mat of fern-like leaves is pretty, too, and the plant grows well in soils and situations that will not serve for others.

There is no plant that snuggles down more contentedly under the shade of trees than the white columbine, Aquilegia vulgaris alba. When I have sown or planted it elsewhere, in garden beds or borders, anywhere in rich, heavy soil, it always refused to grow for me, but in pure, flaky, leafmold one plant has sown its own seed year after year, until the little colony is reaching beyond the edge of its canopy and making a fairly good stand on a sun-burnt slope.

Lilies of the valley have not been planted by many people who love them, because of a tradition that they will thrive only in damp, shaded spots. These may suit them best, but in a sunny hill-top cemetery, where pansies, violets and English daisies utterly refuse to grow, we

have had fine borders of these brave little blossoms for years. The spikes are not so large, perhaps, as one could wish, but they are abundant and very fair and fragrant. The leaves are as broad and as deep a green as those of plants grown in the most favored situations.

A bed of the perennial and evergreen white-flowered candytuft established in any rich nook of a large yard will give hundreds of fragrant flower-sprays early in the spring. I do not recommend it to owners of small yards and gardens, because with us it likes to over-run less sturdy neighbors.

The old-fashioned white pæonies, tended with loving care for years by the grandmothers of our homes, may stiffen their stems with a surer hold upon admiration now. Really they are quite as lovely as many of our huge hybrid roses, and deserve the favor that has been bestowed upon them because they last so much longer than the roses. The white ones have always been my favorites; such rich tints of old ivory and straw-yellow shades, the depth of their waxen, fluted petals, which are more loosely and gracefully arranged than in the monstrous, florid beauties of rosy and crimson colors. Pæonia roots must be planted deep in rich soil and then left undisturbed in order to establish themselves. Their cushiony buds are frequently spoiled in spring by droves of ants, which we drive away by sprinkling the buds with tobacco-water after every rain.



ACHILLEA, THE PEARL

I have often wondered why the stately, handsome old Yucca filamentosa was never forced as an Easter flower; next year I think I shall try it. What grand effects it would produce in chancel decorations! Whether it would give the same grand spike of creamy bells when slowly forced, I cannot say, but the only way to find out is to try it and see. Hundreds of ugly and pugnacious looking beetles infest the yucca flower-crowns as soon as they are fairly open, and the best way to get rid of them seems to be brushing them off and destroying



them. One species of yucca that grows wild in our swamps the children call "bear grass. I think it is *Y. filamentosa*.

Later in summer bloom the achilleas. *A. serrata plena*, "The Pearl," is the best white summer flower for cutting that I know. Clumps of it are easily established anywhere, for its fine fibrous roots take a quick hold upon the soil and spread rapidly.

The white digitalis, *D. gloxinoides alba*, is rare yet, and so far has not been willing to grow for me, but it is so very beautiful that I shall not give it up. To see those long, classical looking spikes of drooping white bells yearly repeated in one's garden is worth taking much trouble for.

*Gypsophila paniculata*, with mist-like white flowers, is indispensable for cutting, and despite its delicate appearance is easily established.

The white phloxes deserve a whole chapter to themselves. We like best to plant them in flickering sun and shade where their grand flower trusses may give a cool, "moonlight" effect in late afternoons. The season of flowering can be prolonged by transplanting and dividing one or two clumps every spring and by pinching out the tips of some plants, as for chrysanthemums.

The white day lily is another plant that derives half its beauty from the shady nook which it perfumes. To see the sun beating down fiercely upon banks of white flowers, giving blinding effects and scorching up their fragrance, always seems like profanation. All white flowers look fairest and purest in shade, unless they bloom in spring or late autumn. Most red ones love the sun, and need it to enrich their hues.

The single satiny white Japan anemone, with golden yellow heart, is, to me, the fairest flower of autumn. The hardy white chrysanthemum, growing close by and blooming as late, still seems common beside the anemone. As cut flowers, however, the chrysanthemums last longer. Colonies of both these plants unless lifted and divided every few years exhaust the soil about them, and send up so many shoots that all are choked and starved save the fortunate outer ones.

It is an error to suppose that "planting is all the trouble required by perennials;" while the perennial garden demands a minimum of care, it cannot "take care of itself entirely," as one so frequently hears. Complaints that favorite plants have "run out" in certain gardens arise from just such careless treatment. They will grow and bloom until they have exhausted the soil, dying then unless rescued by transplanting or enrichment. Most of the perennials need two or three years to establish themselves, or reach their prime. If given a thick mulch of strawy fertilizer every fall they may not need division or replanting for a number of years. Much depends on their character of growth; if young shoots spring up thickly in the center of the clump and the roots form a thick mat of fibers they will need division almost every other year after establishment. In any case the soil should be kept loose and rich about them and grass and weeds kept at bay. This is very little to give in return for their crops of beautiful flowers.

L. GREENLEE.

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#### A FLOWER OF FLOWERS.

No seed in all the world contains more wonderful and surprising beauty hidden away in its dull grayish-brown shell than the sweet pea, of which Keats wrote:

Here are sweet peas on tip-toe for a flight.

No pen could have more daintily or gracefully described their exquisite flowers that, poised on their long stems, really seem "on tip-toe for a flight." No flower is more delicately and sweetly perfumed; no flower presents a more graceful form or a greater variety of colors and tints and markings; no flower appeals more strongly to one's poetic imagination. If you have never yet grown it in your yard by all means do so this year, and thus become more intimately acquainted with one of the very sweetest flowers that blooms.

H. H. H.

#### OUR ROSES.

WE are heartily glad now, during this month of perfect June days, that in our numerous orders for plants we included a generous number of roses. Well has the rose been called the Queen of Flowers! Never did it seem more beautiful than this season.

The climbing roses have made a prodigious growth and are loaded with bloom. We are giving all the climbers a trial. Baltimore Belle is a beautiful sight with its fine clusters of dainty buds; it seems at its best just before it comes into full bloom. The Seven Sisters is another climbing rose which produces fine clusters of five, six, or more roses (frequently six, hence the name, perhaps); it is peeping up above the first story of the house, as is also the Queen of the Prairie, which is one of the finest climbers. The climbing white rose is a thing of beauty,—full of bloom and the roses are large and creamy white in bud, becoming snowy white when in full bloom. The Crimson Rambler and the Yellow Rambler are additions made this year to our list; they are making a good growth; the foliage is different from any of the roses, in being quite smooth and shining. I am quite eager to see these new climbers in bloom.

The clumps of hybrid roses are wonderfully fine; the rich velvety hues are of surpassing beauty, and although the bushes are but making their second year's growth they are full of bloom. I would say that nothing could be finer than these hybrid roses, but we have such a lovely

moss rose, which seems to be the queen of queens. The beautiful shade of pink contrasts so well with the green of the dainty moss-covered sepals and stems, and the "moss" itself is so fairy-like, one can well imagine the elves have been at work at the sepals and stems, clothing them with the dainty moss-like covering. Everyone who passes pauses to admire and exclaim over the beauty of this rose.

Then, besides all these, we have hosts of common roses; the fence is lined with them, so every passer-by can take a glance and get a "whiff" of their delicious odor.

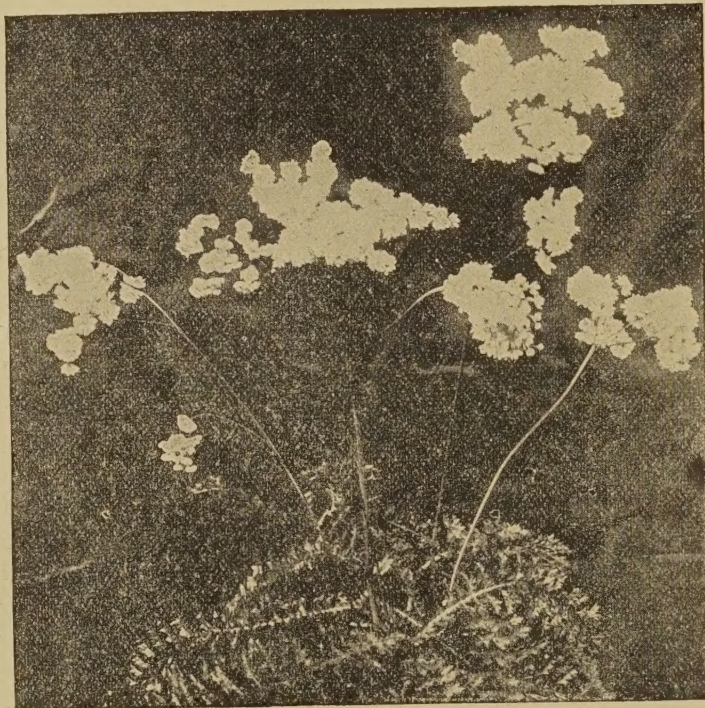
Nor are these all; the wild roses have been given a place. *Rosa canina* is one of the pretty sights of our flower garden; the long, graceful branches, with the delicate single roses, are like so many wreaths; the hedges are especially fine on this wild rose, rendering it charming even after the flowers "are faded and gone." The Sweet Brier is also well worth cultivating; besides the beauty of the roses and fine foliage, the odor is charming,

SPIRÆA FILIPENDULA ALBA

filling the air morning and evening with its delightful fragrance.

I would urge everyone who has any space for a shrub or bush to fill it with roses. Plant them along the fence, about the porch, the sides of the house; make your home a bower of roses and a place of beauty. If you are a "renter" let not this deter you from planting roses; if every renter will plant roses and take an interest in his surroundings, the general tone of rented property will be raised. And when it requires such a small outlay, both in money and labor, to plant and care for roses, it seems that every home throughout the land should be a very bower of beauty during the month of June, and the "last rose of summer" should not "be left blooming alone" until late in autumn, since the fine hybrid roses can be so easily grown and are so beautiful. There is nothing which exerts a finer influence on the habits of children than the care and cultivation of flowers; teach them to cultivate and preserve, rather than to ruthlessly destroy. A child who has been a companion of flowers, as it were, has a veneration for them; one who has been a stranger to them has the desire to appropriate and ruthlessly break them from the plant or bush. The more we are among plants, and the more we understand about them, the greater beauty we perceive in them, and the less the desire to injure them. It is an old adage that familiarity breeds contempt, but this is not so in connection with plants and flowers; on the contrary, we guard them more jealously and fondle them with greater care.

MRS. W. A. K.





## LOS ANGELES GARDENS.



IN a land where the soil responds liberally to the efforts of the intelligent gardener; where the application of water will produce a miracle and bring forth a wealth of bloom and fruit, even in a desert; so, where the ground is of unusual fertility, one would naturally expect to find gardens of unusual beauty. But in Los Angeles, in fact in Southern California, these are the exception and not the rule. True, the sweeping branches of the date palm look graceful; the stately Norfolk Island pine is a rare sight to look upon; the pepper tree, with its fern-like foliage and red berries, is beautiful in season; but these are only individual plants and do not constitute a garden, and while specimens here and there arouse the enthusiasm of the visitor, probably gardens rarely do so.

The care of a garden requires unusual diligence and attention in Southern California, as plants grow all the year round, and cannot, therefore, be neglected at any time. The same holds good, of course, of a lawn, which with us in the East constitutes an essential part of a garden. In California Del Sud the residents often choose between a lawn and a flower garden, and grounds without grass are not infrequently met with. Owing to the burning sun, vegetation has to be watered twice a day in summer-time, a task not always relished by the pater-familias. And so it comes that you see many gardens in that sun-kissed land that have barren spaces between the plants, that are not relieved by the verdance of a single blade of grass.

In addition to the trees already mentioned, the *Grevillea robusta*, a variety of pines, and eucalypti, and the Texas umbrella tree should be named; the last, especially, is a splendid shade tree, with a magnificent crown of dense foliage. Magnolias, too, are ornaments of many gardens, with their glossy leaves and large white blossoms. Lagerstroemias, especially the pink one, are also noteworthy. Fruit trees, both deciduous and citrus, are largely planted in small private plots, affording shade and fruit at the same time.

But what strikes the lover of flowers most forcibly, in these gardens of Los Angeles, is the lack of a variety in palms. Three predominate in the City of the Angels, viz.: *Phoenix Canariensis*, *Washingtonia filifera* and *Chamærops excelsa*, despite the fact that many others would flourish equally well,—all the members of the date palm family, several varieties of *cocos*, notably *Cocos Alphonisii* and *plumosus*, *Seaforthia elegans* and others.

It is a sore disappointment to the appreciative visitor to find that even in the land of sunshine many children of Flora will not thrive out of doors and cannot be raised except in a greenhouse. Many begonias, gloxinias, crotons, etc., need the shelter of a conservatory to do well. But when it comes to roses there is no denying that Southern California can give a good account of herself. Tea roses flourish riotously and the Queen of Flowers is seldom entirely absent. *Heliotropes* likewise do well, and callas and marguerites in season grow so freely as to furnish hedges of great beauty. Certain localities are especially adapted to one flower. The carnation thrives best at Redondo Beach, where acres of it are under cultivation, and the geranium grows to prodigious size at Santa Monica; the fuchsia does well everywhere, and specimens of it ten feet high abound in the gardens of Los Angeles. It would be idle to enumerate all the flowers that contribute to give the gardens of Southern California their national reputation. But even here the floriculturist is restricted.



ARECA LUTESCENS

Those who are dissatisfied with their homes in the East and long for the sun-kissed soil of what the Spaniards knew as California Del Sud, should remember that we can make the floral wealth, of which the more flavored land can boast, our own in our gardens and conservatories, and that Southern California has nothing to equal the beauty of our fields and woods. There is no counterpart in the land of sunshine for our stately elms, our sturdy oaks, our graceful birches, our shapely maples, and the many other trees that constitute our forests. And thus are we compensated in the East for the semi-tropical beauty of the Western flora.

HUGO ERICHSEN, M. D.

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## PALMS AND THEIR CULTURE.

FOR stately and grand appearance and for the most elegant and artistic effects in all decorative arrangements, the palm stands without a peer. As a solitary specimen it is superb; for banking or grouping in the reception hall or parlors no other plant can fill its place, in its suggestive tropical luxuriance. Broad, sheltered verandas, and shaded lawns are rendered doubly inviting, during the summer months, by its charming presence, lending to the surroundings an air of coolness and comfort. One secret, perhaps, of its great popularity, aside from its beauty, is that a well-grown, healthy palm is ready on demand for decorative use,—no waiting for a certain season, as with many blooming plants; it forms a constant supply, growing more stately and valuable with each succeeding year. Its rich and varied foliage lends a superb finish to the most elaborate furnishings, and an air of elegance to the plainest apartment.

Until within a few years the palm was regarded as wholly a florist's plant,—something to be rented for special occasions, guarded with the utmost care, and returned with a sense of relief if it met no harm. But progressive florists have dispelled this illusion, by culling from this great family such varieties as are best adapted to amateur culture, and to endure the vicissitudes that characterise the average living room. Ambitious amateurs have not been slow to avail themselves of the tempting possibilities in store for them, and have in their turn practically verified

the statements of florists that the palm will stand a great deal of neglect and wrong treatment before showing any bad results; I trust this recital of the fact will not encourage anyone in careless usage of so noble a plant, but rather embolden the fearful to try their "prentice hand" upon at least one or two fine specimens



COCOS WEDDELLIANA

The firm, heavy texture of their foliage enables them to endure better than almost any other decorative plant the varying and high degrees of temperature to which they are often subjected, and it is very gratifying to know that the species that thrive best under these disadvantages are the most beautiful of the whole palm family.

Palms are especially adapted to places with limited sunshine, proving a boon to many city dwellers, and will do well in a strong light without sunshine. They are often greatly injured by being kept constantly in darkened halls and in apartments that preclude the treatment essential to their health. A daily sponging of their foliage with tepid water may be given by careful hands without damage to surroundings, and if they are carried to another apartment for an hour of morning sunshine, and thoroughly showered once or twice a week, they will remain in a healthy condition, with judicious watering as demanded. Remember always that while limited and early morning sunshine brightens and invigorates the palm, strong sunshine destroys the rich green color.

Palms are easily potted when received by express, and from a painstaking florist,—coming with the soil and roots intact, just as removed from the pot, these enveloped in excelsior and bound with twine. Pro-



vide a pot of larger size and as deep as possible,—twice as deep as wide is none too much. The roots of nearly all palms run downward instead of spreading; if you have ever grown one from seed, especially a date, you have an idea of their delving propensities. They must have good drainage, as they will not remain healthy in soggy soil; place three or four inches of charcoal or broken pottery in the bottom of the pot and over this a layer of sphagnum (florist's moss) or some fibrous material to prevent the soil washing into the drainage; over this a generous layer of soil, place the palm on it and fill around with soil, water thoroughly and keep in a light, cool place, but out of the sun, for a week or more. The soil should contain a large proportion of fiber,—well rotted sod with the addition of some good garden loam and a little sharp sand makes a good mixture. A lighter soil is not advisable because of its drying out too rapidly. When palms are once established do not water them until the surface of the soil looks dry and shrinks slightly from the

the pot. Then give sufficient tepid water to thoroughly saturate the soil and to run through into the saucer, but do not allow any of the surplus water to remain. Surface watering, or a slight and frequent dribbling is ruinous to all plants, and especially so to the mass of deep roots developed by a vigorous palm. Shower them at least once a week,—better every other day, if you want them to shine as if varnished; the bent-neck plant sprinklers are excellent, as it is necessary that every part be reached; get the largest size sprinkler for best results. If not convenient to shower them so often, sponge the stems



KENTIA FORSTERIANA

and both upper and under side of foliage three times a week with tepid water; daily sponging is better, using a soft, fine sponge as least liable of all things to catch and tear the foliage. Treated in this way they will be free from red spider, which appears in dry, heated atmospheres,—in fact, no pest will trouble them if the work is thorough. An occasional scale may appear; rub off the first one as soon as discovered and there will be no trouble. No plant is freer from pests than the palm, and with only half care. If small white worms appear in the soil, give a thorough soaking with lime water; if one application does not answer give a second. Add a piece of fresh lime as large as an orange to three gallons of water; when dissolved and clear, pour off the clear water for use. The lime water is perfectly harmless. A saturated solution, which means all the lime the water will dissolve, will not harm the plants. Lime that has been air slacked is worthless.

I do not repot palms oftener than once in two years, sometimes longer if not root bound. Remove a portion of the old soil from the top without disturbing the roots, and replace with a fresh rich soil. Do this once or twice a year, and give some good fertilizer once a month. An occasional soaking with weak soot tea, when the soil is dry, will intensify the color and gloss of the foliage. Bone meal well worked into the soil is a most excellent fertilizer; the best time to add the latter is when repotting.

Among the many beautiful varieties, the most cultivated tastes in regard to plants have classed the Kentia and Areca as the favorite ones. And so well do they merit the distinction that whether Dame Fashion decrees it or not, they will always hold first rank in the hearts of those who know them best. They form a lovely twain, and contrast most charmingly.

The fronds of *Areca lutescens* are long and plume-like, with slender, arching stems which like the trunk are mottled green and yellow; each frond is composed of twenty to thirty pinnate leaves, the younger growth a beautiful light green, a most pleasing contrast with darker sorts.

*Areca Baurei* is a strong, upright growing variety, with broad fronds not so dainty as the above. Fine for table decoration.

*Kentia Belmoreana* has lovely, arching leaves of deepest green, with from twenty to thirty strap-leaved divisions to each frond. One of the handsomest, and florists say the very hardiest of palms.

*Kentia Forsteriana*, or the "Thatch palm," is very delicate and graceful, with leaves of a lighter, livelier green. Both the *Areca*s and the *Kentia*s bear much rough handling without damage to their foliage,—superior to the fan-shaped in this respect.

*Phoenix reclinata*, a date palm, is of most graceful habit, with long, pinnate leaves on gracefully arching stems. It is a sturdy and rapid grower, and will send out a miniature crest of fronds from its crown; the foliage is of great substance and a dark, rich green. An excellent sort for amateur culture.



LATANIA BORBONICA

*Latania Borbonica* is an imposing palm, with large, deeply divided fan-shaped leaves,—the real "fan palm." It is of a sturdy, spreading habit, with strong stems, and makes a massive specimen with age. It is of a rich green color, of the easiest culture, and superb for prominent positions or solitary effect.

*Livistonia rotundifolia* is similar to the last named, but much smaller, more graceful, and a dainty palm for table decoration. Well adapted to grow in fern dishes.

*Cocos Weddelliana* is a most beautiful palm for growing in the same manner; is of a rich green, with erect but gracefully arching leaves, and being of slow growth will do service as a table plant for a long time. It must have the best of drainage and the daintiest of care. A daily spraying is a necessity.

*Seaforthia elegans* is of very graceful habit and rapid growth. The leaves are of exceeding length, beautifully arched, and plummy in form,—the lovely "feather palm." It makes a magnificent specimen for the center of groups or for lofty effect, when of sufficient age. It requires, however, the best of drainage, the most scrupulous cleanliness, and provision for a moist atmosphere. Aside from these requirements it needs only the usual treatment, and well repays any extra care.

A. H. HAZLETT.

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#### WILD FLOWERS AT HOME.

THERE are very few among the millions of admirers of floriculture in our broad land who are not lovers of our wild flowers. With many, the love for the early woodland blossoms antedates the charm of the garden, for to the lover of rambles in the budding woods nothing can exceed the pleasure afforded by recollections resulting from a trip of this nature. For, as our emotional natures associate tunes heard in the dim past with events almost obliterated from memory, so do we recall occurrences in childhood's hours associated with the wild flowers of spring. This is especially so with persons reared to admire nature, and whose childhood, that impressionable period of life, was passed among natural surroundings and received from years of intermingling with the birds and flowers an ineffable sense of the beauties of forest and field. Many poets and soulful writers have dwelt on these attachment and have feelingly expressed the sentiment, as Campbell says:

Ye field flowers! The gardens eclipse you, 'tis true,  
Yet, wildlings of nature, I dote upon you,  
For ye waft me to summers of old,  
When the earth teemed around me with fairy delight,  
And when daisies and buttercups gladdened my sight,  
Like treasures of silver and gold.

A very little space given to our wild flowers will answer, and a small



bed in the garden among the cultivated plants will meet all requirements. A little effort will result in much satisfaction, and though there are some species which will not thrive in city environment, there are many others which will respond most amiably to our care and love.

The hepaticas, spring beauty, blue-eyed Mary, trilliums, and many species of violets are among those of the early spring which will thrive if proper soil is provided, and form a pleasing contrast to the bed of bright colored tulips. Most of these are best protected with a covering of leaves in the fall, and after being once well rooted should not be nursed or petted, for they are altogether hardy, much given to set-backs if molested. Like the flying squirrel and other delicate organisms which though formed to rough it, are destroyed if not delicately let alone in captivity.

Later the wild phlox and celandine may be caused to bloom. There are about fifty species of plants blossoming in early May, which are suitable for the garden, and I am acquainted with a lady who has upwards of forty species which thrive unassisted in the city. The summer and fall flowers do not appeal to us as strongly as the early varieties, but there are a number which are eminently qualified. Without entering the list here, I would suggest that interested observers secure plants of their own section and develop them in suitable soil. It is not generally known that there are over twenty species of goldenrod in the Great Lake region and these are found in all kinds of soil from low, mucky ground to high, sandy soil; with their many forms they make a most interesting group to the observer, and their lasting bloom makes them favorites at a time when many flowers of the garden have passed their prime.

My readers must not think that this little bed of wildlings will detract from the beauty of the surroundings. On the contrary it will enhance the charm of the garden, and to the student and true lover of flowers the value will be increased four fold. Try my suggestion and report your success.

MORRIS GIBBS, M. D.

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#### DO AWAY WITH THE FENCES.

**N**OW much the residence streets in our smaller towns and villages have improved in appearance since the fashion obtained of doing away with front and line fences! Smooth lawns merging one into the other shaded by a few trees, give a much better effect than the rows of little boxes stuffed with a heterogeneous collection of plants and shrubs which formerly did duty as front yards. With good walks about the dwellings and broad, smooth pavements in front, bordered at each side by well grown and well kept trees, set in not too narrow a strip of turf, quite a park-like expanse is secured and an elegant effect produced, though the buildings themselves be but modest.

It is hard to estimate the educative effect of all this; besides the neighborliness and general good feeling promoted by coöperative work, which must surely tend to harmony of heart, an effect is secured which gives the restfulness of home to the heart and of beauty to the eye. Whatever the eye rests upon is, in a general way, educative; every item going to make or mar the general effect having its reflex influence upon the beholder. If it is smothering, irritating, exasperating, to be cooped in a cluttered, ill-kept yard in the hot days of summer, the larger expanse, the general roominess, must bring a corresponding expansiveness of soul to him whose ordinary environment possesses this preëminent grace.

Nor need the cultivation of plants and shrubs be neglected to secure the above intimated results. The space in the rear of the grounds formerly given over to the ubiquitous tin can and to the general accumulation of repulsive rubbish, may be utilized to great advantage as a flower or vegetable garden, or as a play-ground for the children. If set aside for the latter use it will be the better for being bordered with beds of flowers of the commoner sorts, in which the children are given proprietary rights to plant, to cultivate, and to gather, as nearly as may be, at their own will and pleasure. Better, too, if vines be trained over the outbuildings and alley fences. With a good turf and a tree or two, a barren, sun-baked waste may be transformed into a fairy bower, and surely it were worth some effort and expense to keep the children safe, happy and off the street.

If there were no other gain, there is a hygienic benefit in it all, too, which commends the movement. Towering fences no longer shut out the sunlight and shut in the damp, obscure the view and cut off neighborly communication. Grass grows where once were moss and mold. Sunlight sweetens and breezes sweep where once there were dank corners which neither penetrated. There being now no place where rubbish may be harbored, cleanly and tidy habits are inculcated in the children, which are of great value in character building.

The mental and moral tone of the community is raised. The standard



CRINUM PEDUNCULATUM

topic, "What more can we do to improve our street," raises the conversation many degrees above common gossip. The easily convened circle of admirers over a rare plant or bloom, the convenient comparison of growing gardens, vines, shrubs and trees, all tend to elevating companionship and close-knit neighborliness, and the greater cleanliness and tidiness alone should bring an added sweetness to the moral as well as the physical atmosphere.

If there were no higher motive for the improvement of our home places in this coöperative way than self interest, that alone should prompt it; for every beauty added, every blemished banished, every harmonious note struck in the improvement of our premises, enhances their monetary value. The love of beauty, however, for its own sake, for its educative influence, for its elevating power, should lead us to keep high ideals always before our eyes and inspire us to their highest possible development in our every environment, in community, in street and especially in our homes.

DART FAIRTHORNE.

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#### CRINUM PEDUNCULATUM.

**S**EVERAL species of crinum have been disseminated and become somewhat popular in this country, in the past few years, as greenhouse and house plants, and are apparently as much admired as the fine species of amaryllis and hippeastrum, which have longer been well known, and to which they are closely related botanically. An engraving, on this page, is presented of a species which is considered one of the finest kinds; this is *Crinum pedunculatum*, or St. John's lily. Old plants of this crinum are said to have reached a height of five or six feet, with a corresponding breadth of magnificent foliage. The plant sends up a scape three feet or more in length, bearing from twenty to thirty large, pure white, fragrant, lily-like flowers. The broad leaves are from a foot to two and a half feet in length, spreading out in every direction about the plant and giving it a grand aspect. The specimen from which this photograph was made is an occupant of the greenhouse of Mr. Hugh Dempster, of this city, an ardent amateur horticulturist, to whom we are indebted for the privilege of presenting the likeness of the plant to our readers. The plant was in bloom in March and April of the present spring. Its habit is to bloom at intervals during the year, particularly in the spring and summer.



## THE MEMORIAL ROSE.

TOO much cannot be said in praise of the dainty little Rosa Wichuriana or Memorial rose. Its natural manner of growth is creeping and if allowed to have its own way it will quickly cover a large space, throwing out roots at frequent intervals, thus providing a much larger amount of nourishment according to the size of the plant, than any other rose. It came from Japan, and like all plants which come to us from that strange country, it has great merit and attractiveness. The leaves are very small, of a handsome green and shine as if varnished; here they are partially evergreen and are entirely so in many places where considerable freezing may be expected.

The flowers are of the form and size of the wild rose, creamy white in color, with an unusual number of golden yellow stamens which give an added beauty to the flower. The fragrance is exquisite, having something of the violet odor and reminding one of the fragrance of the Banksia roses. Instead of blooming in June with the other hardy roses, this little gem begins to bloom in July, giving a great profusion of flowers during that month and providing an occasional one through the remainder of the summer and fall. The roses are followed by brilliant red hips that remain on the plant till spring.

This rose is especially adapted for cemetery planting, and two or three good plants will completely cover a grave in one season, either on the bare earth or over the sod. Little trimming or clipping is needed the first season, but the branches need to be trained in the right direction and pegged down occasionally; after the first year the plants will need considerable pruning to keep them from running all over the lot. It is so hardy that it lives unprotected almost anywhere and starts into rapid growth early in spring.

The vines can be trained to grow upright if desired and a vine grown in that way is a beautiful sight. As the branches are slender they need a firm support for about three feet from the ground, and then the shoots can be allowed to follow their own sweet will. In this again the trailing habit shows itself, and the branches droop gracefully in all directions; when in bloom a more beautiful sight cannot be imagined than the graceful swaying vines, thickly covered with foliage and gemmed with the dainty flowers.

LENA A. HOLMES.

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## SOME INDISPENSIBLE ROSES.

WHAT a grand rose is the General Jacqueminot! There is perhaps no better rose of its color, and no garden is complete without it. If given good cultivation it produces magnificent flowers and buds; its buds are famous for their beauty, and early in the season the full blown flowers are grand, but later they are not full. Last June I had Jacque roses fully five inches across and very full.

Mrs. John Laing is the queen of pinks; no printed description ever did this rose justice,—it is simply magnificent, and is almost as free blooming as a hybrid tea.

Paul Neyron is famous as the largest of all known roses, and though its size is immense it is full and never looks coarse. It is also of a most beautiful color, and is a rank, strong grower. Everyone admires it.

The four LaFrance roses,—pink, red, white and striped,—are unsurpassed in beauty of form, color and fragrance; in fact they are the highest type of the improved rose and perhaps will never be surpassed. They blend the best qualities of the Hybrid Perpetuals and the Teas, and in this locality are quite hardy. Their fragrance is the most delightful of all roses.

Meteor is sometimes called a Tea rose, but is really a Hybrid Tea, and is perfectly hardy here. It is one of the most brilliantly colored of all roses and produces great quantities of elegant buds from early spring until frost. The open flowers are also fine.

Clothilde Soupert is the queen of pot roses,—it is the only one which I can get to bloom well in pots during the winter. If strong young plants are put outdoors early in the spring and all the buds kept pinched off, they will make very strong, stocky plants which if taken up and potted in a six-inch pot, will produce great quantities of flowers during the winter. It is also grand for outdoor blooming; in fact, it has no superior and is perfectly hardy. The Pink Soupert is also fine; the Yellow Soupert I have not tested.

A good companion for the Soupert roses is Mrs. Degraw. It is very hardy, never being injured during the most severe winters here. The buds are fine and of a beautiful pink, and a most persistent bloomer. I consider it the best pink ever-blooming rose. I find it identical with the Champion of the World.

Another rose, which is not generally known, is the Marie Pavie; it belongs to the Polyantha class and is without exception the most productive rose I am acquainted with. The flowers are full, nearly as large

as the Pink Soupert, white shaded pink in the center, and produced by the hundreds throughout the season. The buds are fine, and the spicy fragrance is delightful,—quite different from other roses, and the longer they are kept after cutting the more fragrant they become. The plant is entirely hardy and is a fine rose for hedge and cemeteries, and all things considered I believe it is an indispensable variety. Last year a three year plant of Madame Pavie bore, at one time, over a thousand flowers and buds.

One of the most satisfactory Tea roses for open ground is Madame Joseph Schwartz; it produces great quantities of beautiful flowers which are white, shaded pink, bud carmine.

Etoile de Lyon is the best yellow Tea for open air culture; the buds on established plants are almost as fine as those of Maréchal Neil. Francisca Kruger is another most excellent Tea. Mamam Cochet produces the finest buds of any pink rose and ranks with the three above named Teas in hardiness; all of which are the hardiest in this section of all that I have tested, requiring no protection here, except during the severest winters.

Of white everblooming roses I consider Kaiserina Augusta Victoria much the best; it is quite hardy here.

Another grand old rose is the Malmaison, one of my prime favorites, being perfectly hardy and producing the grandest flowers, especially in the autumn.

American Beauty is an indispensable rose, in fact it is perfection in flower. Its worst fault is that the plant is not a very robust grower and requires good care. Its fragrance is delightful.

Vick's Caprice is the best of all the variegated roses; it is not a mere curiosity, but is in all respects a really fine rose. It produces the grandest flowers in late summer and autumn; the flowers are full and large.

The old white early blooming rose, Madame Plantier, is always a favorite of mine; to be sure it is not an everbloomer, but it produces its beautiful pure white flowers in such great abundance that it deserves a place in all collections.

Of Moss roses I find the Princess Adelaide the best white; the buds are very long, pointed and finely massed.

The Memorial Rose is a fine thing for covering banks; one plant will soon cover quite a large space of ground.

The list of cultivated roses is immense; there are many good varieties, but no one can make a mistake in planting any of the above. I omitted to mention the Viscountess Folkston, which is a grand hybrid Tea, the flowers of which are extremely large and full; an altogether desirable rose.

M. BENSON.

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## THE OLEANDER.

THE oleander is a dear old favorite. Its stately, sturdy growth, and free blooming qualities have given it seemingly life lease to our affections. Grown as a summer bloomer, no plant makes a grander showing on lawn or piazza. In June it presents a perfect mass of fragrant, rosy blossoms, while great heads of the beautiful blooms nod in profusion the summer through.

The pride of the piazza in summer, it may, if properly grown, become the queen of the bay-window in winter; and although we are not accustomed to regard it as a strictly winter bloomer, it may be induced to give a constant succession, a very wealth of bloom from October until May. To accomplish this, the plant should be repotted each spring in a rich soil made of equal parts of well-rotted manure, sand and loam. Give it not over much root-room, but leave a good margin for growth. Prune the plant back to symmetrical shape, allowing no buds to form after May. About the first of August, shake out all the old soil possible without disturbing the roots, fill up with good new soil. Water well, keep lightly shaded from the strongest sunshine, and by the last of August or first of September, the young shoots should be well set with buds. Now you have your plant under control and may bring it on to bloom at will.

Bring it indoors before the nights grow too cool; a cold wind will twist the leaves and blast the buds, giving the plant a disastrous set-back, but rightly managed, by the middle of October it will be blooming in a wonderful way, sending out great clusters of rosy bloom with twenty-five, thirty and even more florets in a cluster, as large, double and almost as sweet as roses and quite equal to roses in beautiful effect.

It seems not to be generally known to amateur plant-growers that the new bud is formed at the base of the old bloom; and if the flower-stems are cut, the coming buds are destroyed; but if the fading blossoms are allowed to become at least partially dry and then carefully pulled off, the plant keeps up a constant succession of bloom. I prefer, however, to cut off the flower-stem when the blossoms become faded, allowing other flower-stems to come forward and furnish bloom, the plant thus being more easily kept in shape. Three things the oleander must have for



fullest development; sand, sunshine, and plenty of water in the soil. Its foliage is thick and leathery, and if the plant is to retain the beautiful shining green of a well-grown specimen, it should be kept growing and free from dust. Though not very liable to the attacks of insects, still watch should be kept for spider, scale and mealy bug. A thorough sponging of its leaves once a week in winter will be all usually needed to keep it clean. For spider, use water freely; showering and sponging the leaves daily till the pest is routed. Washing with an old brush in soap-suds will destroy scale, and the kerosene emulsion is death to mealy bug.

The oleander may be easily started from cuttings rooted in water in a sunny window. Of all the varieties, though the white has its virtues, the new double pink, as now grown by florists, is far superior to any other.

The oleander, all the dearer that it is old-fashioned, is a good plant to have; it is easy to cultivate; with intelligent treatment it never disappoints. Like an old friend it is tried and true. No plant with which I am acquainted will better bear positive neglect, nor will any give more generous reward for careful cultivation, but its one fault we must mention: Its leaves are poisonous and should be kept out of the reach of children.

DART FAIRTHORNE.

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### PRUNING ROSES.

IN order to illustrate as clearly as possible the proper pruning of roses, a considerable number of drawings were made, early in the past spring, of rose plants as they stood after coming through the winter, and also of the same plants as they appeared after pruning by experienced gardeners. From these drawings engravings have been prepared which will be presented in future issues of this journal. In the meantime a



FIG. 1  
TWO-YEAR TEA ROSE

FIG. 2  
H. T. CAROLINE TESTOUT

number of the English *Journal of Horticulture* has been received, containing a communication by "Practice," giving illustrations of a similar character. As this article is very much to the point, the illustrations have been reproduced, and two of them with a portion of the article are here given. The concluding portion will appear next month, and our own illustrations in succeeding numbers.

#### ROSE PRUNING, BY "PRACTICE."

Although such a very mild season, I do not think our roses more forward than usual, and certainly would not prune earlier than after winters of ordinary severity. It is not early growth which we want upon roses, but breaks from healthy eyes, and these made sufficiently late to insure a greater chance of quick growth, unchecked by the late spring frosts which so often ruin early and promising new wood.

With a view to making the present article upon this important part of rose culture more plain and simple, I have taken a few rough sketches of types of plants growing in my garden, and which I shall prune upon the lines indicated in the illustrations. It does not matter whether it be Hybrid Perpetuals, Teas, Hybrid Teas, or any of the other classes, our roses of similar growth to those described need much the same treatment. Fig. 1 represents a two-year old plant of a Tea rose of an erect growing variety, which flowers freely from almost every shoot, and which may be chosen as a type of such as Anna Olivier, Catherine Mermet, Madame Lambard, and others of a similar habit. The shoots from the base, marked *a*, *b*, and *c*, are soft and pithy, although they carried good blooms late in the season. From six to twelve inches from the base of these there is a sound eye or bud, and the wood will be cut back to this point. The remainder of the growth will be cut back, as shown by the cross marks. Most of the wood above these marks is inclined to be soft, and

will under any circumstances, be cut back to a sound and well-ripened eye. Unless we prune this class of roses rather hard we get a succession of new growths from the top eye, which, on account of the erect habit, soon make a thin and pyramidal plant, instead of the desired bush of more compact form. We have much the same habit in Merveille de Lyon and Baroness Rothschild from among the Hybrid Perpetuals, although more robust. These varieties very seldom carry soft and unripened wood, but owing to the same erect habit, I would cut them back almost as hard as shown in the cut.

An old and fairly strong plant of Comtesse de Nadaillac, Sunset, Perle des Jardins, Souvenir d'Elise Vardon, and a few more, will often produce a succession of stout shoots from the base, as marked *a*, *b*, and *c*, in fig. 1. Instead of cutting these down so hard I would only prune back to the first sound eye. Nor should any well matured wood of these be cut away except to thin out the growth where rather crowded and dense. Horace Vernet, Duchess of Bedford, Louis VanHoutte, and similarly habited Hybrid Perpetuals, grow in the same erratic fashion in most gardens, and need the same style of pruning. It is a general rule to prune a rose hard if a weak grower, and very slightly when of extra vigorous habit, but in the few last instances I would leave almost all of the sound eyes.

Fig. 2 is a plant of Hybrid Tea Caroline Testout, also two years old. Here we have a rose of entirely different habit, one which makes a succession of growths all through the season, and, although not so spreading as some, forms a much wider bush than in fig. 1. My plant is carrying the same shoots as shown. The three portions of dead wood will be cut back to a sound eye, and the remainder shortened and thinned according to the cross marks. This will result in a compact bush, which in all probability will be twice its present size next autumn. Much of the wood cut away in this case will be perfectly sound and ripe, but by pruning, as illustrated, we get a better bush, flowers of better quality, and quite as many of them.

There are many varieties with a somewhat similar habit to Caroline Testout. Mrs. Bosanquet, Goubault, Madame Falcot, Madame Willermoz, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Rosa Mundi, Souvenir de Paul Neyron, Marie VanHoutte, Francisca Kruger, and Alfred Colomb may be cited as examples needing the same pruning. We also have Dupuy Jamain, General Jacqueminot, Mrs. John Lang, Camille Bernardine, Charles Lefebvre, Fisher Holmes, Maurice Bernardin, Prince Camille de Rohan and several other varieties which range between figs. 2 and 3 as regards habit and vigor of growth.

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### FREESIA REFRACTA ALBA.

I think it would be almost impossible to find a winter flowering bulbous plant with more excellent qualities than *Freesia refracta alba*. We have other bulbs, no doubt superior in some respects, but fail in the combined qualities which this plant possesses. In the adornment of the conservatory or greenhouse the white sweet-scented flowers are a grand acquisition, while in a cut state, for vase or buttonhole work, they are invaluable. They retain their freshness a considerable length of time,—an important consideration where flowers for this purpose are in great request. A good time to pot the bulbs is about the middle of August, using as a compost a fibrous loam, two parts to one of well-decayed leaf-mold and a fair sprinkling of coarse sand and wood ashes which tend to keep the soil sweet. The largest bulbs should be selected. We find five-inch pots large enough for five bulbs; they are potted moderately firm, and are afterwards stood out of doors covered with ashes. As soon as growth appears we remove to a coldframe, where they are allowed to grow steadily, staking being attended to as it becomes necessary.

I find freesias require careful watering, especially before the pots are filled with roots, when a little weak liquid manure benefits them; this may be continued with advantage till the bulbs are almost ripe. To insure good flowers the following year the bulbs must be thoroughly matured in the sun,—in fact, they will almost stand baking,—*Aspirant*, in *Journal of Horticulture*.

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### BLACK COSMOS.

Last year I sowed seed that was sent out by this name, but which is evidently identical with Burpee's "Black Dahlia," *Dahlia Zimpani*. It is a small and slender dahlia in its foliage and there is a dahlia-like tuber which could be wintered and started again, no doubt. Its flowers are rather small, and are single; their blackness is due to the depth of the red tint like that of a black hollyhock. The florets of the central disc are speckled with gold, but the flowers do not open very wide and I do not think it desirable as a decorative plant. The flowers are borne high above the foliage, on stiff, erect stems. As a botanist I want to see new plants, whether they are pretty or not, and it was interesting as a tiny dahlia, but I do not think it will ever be very popular.

E. S. GILBERT.



# VICKS ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY.... MAGAZINE

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## Hollyhock Rust.

A number of complaints have been received about hollyhock rust, with inquiries about treating the plants. It has been shown that this disease can be controlled by spraying the plants with copper fungicide, Bordeaux mixture, or ammoniacal solution of copper carbonate. Most fruit growers now understand the preparation of these liquid substances and employ them more or less. In the May number of this journal, page 104, instructions were given for making the Bordeaux mixture. In regard to ammoniacal copper carbonate it may be said that there are several ways of preparing it. Here is one of them:

Copper carbonate . . . . . 5 ounces  
Ammonia (26° Beaumé) . . . . . 3 pints  
Water . . . . . 45 gallons  
Dilute the ammonia by adding to it ten or twelve quarts of water, and then stir in the copper carbonate. After this has dissolved add enough water to make forty-five or fifty gallons.

The method of use is to spray the plants with the liquid, commencing early in the season, or on the first appearance of the disease on the leaves, and to repeat the operation as often as may be necessary to keep the young growth covered with copper.

If a fruit grower who is making and employing fungicides for his fruit trees has a case of hollyhock disease it is plain that he can easily make use of the remedies for the hollyhock plants. But what of those who are not so situated? It is evident that persons having a plant or two of hollyhocks, or a dozen or two of them, showing diseased foliage will not ordinarily undertake to use these remedies. A devotee of hollyhock growing might do so, but the ordinary amateur will be more satisfied to dig and burn up the diseased plants than to give them the required fungicide treatment. Practically, then, it means that for private gardens, at least, there is as yet no simple and successful method of overcoming this disease.

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## Planting a Clematis.

A correspondent, C. B. W., of the *American Florist* offers an answer to the inquiry often made about raising a clematis. The directions are very good, though it is certain that failures of this plant often take place under other circumstances than those supposed in this case, as even he also states. But the general directions are good and worthy of disseminating. Here are his words:

"A universal question is: 'What must I do to have a clematis live?' The one you sold me a year ago, grew nicely for a few days, then died suddenly." In answering you may say in substance: To explain all the causes that defeat the healthy growth of clematis would fill a large book, but by giving you a few pointers most essential to their welfare you will be able to steer clear of further difficulty. The clematis, like many other plants, requires a subsoil that will absorb considerable water and give out vapor that continually rises to the many spreading roots above; this is always most satisfactory when it is largely clay. The reason so many clematis die is that they are planted close to buildings where the subsoil is brick-bats, plaster, shavings, etc., that hold no water, but absorb heat. Dig a hole three feet deep, fill it with turf and some manure, put in a pipe at the end so that when the trench is filled you can pour water in at the base and have it soak up, instead of down. Before filling the hole, be sure the ground is well moistened. Always keep the surface dry. In this way they will root deep and be less subject to drought in hot weather. The same treatment is advisable for hardy roses."

## Artichokes for Pigs.

The Oregon Experiment Station has been raising the Jerusalem artichoke and feeding pigs with the tubers, supplemented with a small ration of grain, and reports very satisfactory results.

"The artichokes were planted the last of April, on ground plowed deeply, and prepared as we would prepare ground for potatoes.

"The tubers were planted in furrows which were three feet apart. The seed was dropped eighteen inches apart in the row. The seed was covered with a hoe; but an easier method would be to turn a furrow over the seed; and then in a few days harrow the furrow down, making the ground smooth, and keeping the surface loose at the same time.

"The plants were cultivated a few times, but after the tops were two feet high no further cultivation was necessary. The tops grew seven feet high before the end of the season."

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## Agricultural and Horticultural Publications.

The following Experiment Station reports have recently been received: Oregon, No. 50, The Fertility of Oregon Soils; No. 57, Marketing Fruit; No. 52, The Cultivation of the Hazel Nut; also Notes on Varieties of Pears and Peaches. Vermont, No. 60, Insects of the Year; No. 61, Hardy Apples for Cold Climates; No. 62, Home-grown Grapes in Vermont. Wisconsin, No. 63, Culture of Native Plums in the Northwest.

The following named reprints of papers by Dr. Erwin F. Smith have been received: The Spread of Plant Diseases, a lecture delivered before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, March 27, 1897; Some Bacterial Diseases of Truck Crops, from the transactions of the Peninsula Horticultural Society, meeting at Snow Hill, Maryland, January, 1898; Wakker's Hyacinth Bacteria, from the proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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## Jadoo Fibre.

Very conflicting accounts are given of the effects of growing plants in this material by parties who have made careful trials. Some report success with many different kinds of plants, others find it inferior to good compost and not worthy of further trial. Probably ultimately the truth will be found somewhere between these extremes. It may be valuable for some kinds of plants and comparatively valueless for others, and, besides, plants growing in it may require special treatment. One must learn how to use it before success can be expected. The material is not offered as a fertilizer, but merely as a medium of plant growth instead of soil. Some report using it profitably when mixed with one-half or two-thirds of soil. A liquid plant fertilizer, called the "Jadoo Liquid," is sold by the Jadoo Company to be used with the fibre.

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## Crop Prospects.

From present indications full or average crops of grain of most kinds may be expected, and generally a good hay crop. Fruit prospects are very good; the condition of the apple crop is exceptionally high; the same of the more important apple producing States, and indicating two-thirds of a crop in other parts of the country, but undoubtedly diseases and insects will yet considerably modify the present outlook. The large peach producing States, with the exception of Georgia, where the prospect is very flattering, have a promise of only half a crop or less. The early promise of peaches in most other parts of the country was very good but there has been a large shrinkage since June, still the crop will be fair. There will be a fair crop of plums and pears generally, and the small fruits and grapes will yield a full average.

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## Diseases of the Peach.

A very comprehensive report on peach diseases has been made by the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, at Wooster, Ohio, by Augustine D. Selby. It is styled a "preliminary" report, but it is very thorough, with practical suggestions in regard to the many and various forms of peach diseases. The complete report probably will be given when conclusive results shall be reached with the various forms of treatment now being conducted. In the meantime those who are particularly interested in peach growing should secure this report, known as Bulletin No. 92, for the valuable information it contains.

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## New Varieties of Plants.

The Conard & Jones Company, of West Grove, Pa., announce that they will soon introduce a new canna under the name of "Admiral Dewey," and a new rose of climbing habit called "Royal Cluster."



## Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, and to publish the experiences of our readers. EDITORS.

### Corkscrew Begonia.

Will you please tell me how to treat a Corkscrew begonia? Miss F. P. Mattapan, Mass.

This begonia, Comtesse Louise Erdody, needs precisely the same care as the Rex, being one of the same class.

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### Rex Begonia.

Please tell me in your MAGAZINE, which I like so much, about a Rex begonia. Is it tuberous rooted? and must it be dried off in the winter? Where shall I keep it during summer, in the ground? It has red stems and hairy leaves, red and green. J. W. S.

Boston, Mass.

The Rex varieties of Begonia are not tuberous rooted, they are not to be dried off in the winter, they should not be kept in the sun, but in the shade. Keep moderately moist, and in a place where the leaves will be as free as possible from dust.

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### Window Box.

Kindly let me know the cheapest and most simple way of making a window box for plants. Miss M. T.

Bronx Borough, N. Y.

A box made of inch boards, planed, is all that is needed. The dimensions may be eight inches deep, ten inches wide, and as long as the width of the window, if for the inside or six inches or a foot longer if for the outside. Fasten together with nails or screws. Bore half-inch holes about six inches apart through the bottom.

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### A Bush-growing Clematis—Grass in a Flag Walk.

1—Will you through the LETTER BOX give the name of a variety of clematis which grows, with me, about five or six feet, and has the small, white panicle flowers of Virginiana, Flammula and Paniculata, but so far as I know, is the only small flowered variety that blooms in June.

2—Is there any quick and easy way of getting rid of grass, etc., between the stones of a flag walk? T. H. E.

Geneva, Kane Co., Ill.

1—The clematis is *C. recta*.

2—Salt is the substance usually employed for this purpose. Gas lime, a refuse of gas works, is still more effective. Crude coal oil would, also, be quite effectual.

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### Twig Blight of Fruit Trees.

I have a few young fruit trees and some old ones, that are curiously affected with a kind of blight (this season) that is not understood here. This year's growth on all of the trees thus far affected, first turn black, both leaf and branch, and then wither and droop as though severed from the parent stem. All of the young peach, apple, quince and cherry trees are thus affected together with old pear trees. Old peach and young Damson plum not affected so.

What causes this and how can it be remedied? S. A. SMITH.  
Henderson, Ky.

The effects here described are what is known as the "Twig Blight." It is a bacterial disease, and the best treatment is to cut off and burn all such diseased portions. This may check the disease the present season and favor the escape of the trees the following year.

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### Propagating Rambler Roses.

Will you kindly let me know how I can slip my Rambler roses, especially the Crimson Rambler. I have read somewhere that they should not be pruned as other roses are. M. L. SOULE.

San Francisco, Cal.

The best way to increase the plants is to layer some of the branches now, as this is the right season. Select some branches which can be spared and bring them down to the ground so that the lowest portion can be buried four or five inches deep, while the extremity of the shoot extends out. Before burying cut a slit in the shoot at the point where it reaches the ground, and press some soil in it to keep it open. A strong peg made from the branch of a tree can be pushed into the soil over the layer to hold it in place, and then the soil can be placed on, pressing it down firmly on the layer. The layers can be left until next spring before removal, and then will be found to have roots and can be cut away from the parent plant.

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### Freesias From Seeds.

Will you kindly give me some information about freesias? I have planted some seed to raise bulbs for next winter, and they are coming up. I am not quite sure just how to treat them this summer. When they are large enough to trans-

plant shall I put them into the pots they will occupy in the winter, or will they die down after the bulbs are formed, and take a rest for starting again? I will be much obliged if you will tell me just what to do in the columns of the MAGAZINE. Mrs. I. S. B.

Cheyenne, Wyoming.

When large enough, transplant the seedlings, five or six, into a four-inch pot and attend to them and keep them growing as long as they will, even into the winter, if they are so disposed. When they show signs of resting, by the foliage turning yellow, they can be gradually dried off. It is not probable that many, or any of them, will bloom this season. The most to be expected is that there may be some good bulbs for starting early next summer.

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### Rose—Poinciana.

1—I bought a Princess Augusta rose this spring, fifteen cent size, and have it planted out in the garden, and it is looking healthy now; will it be safe to leave it out doors over winter in this climate, southwestern Nebraska?

2—I have a plant of Poinciana Gilliesii and I prize it very highly, but it has never bloomed, and it does not seem to do well. Please tell me as to soil and time of blooming and size of pot. Should it be set out doors or not. Mrs. C. Beaver City, Neb.

1—The only way to know whether this rose will stand the winter is to try it. In late autumn draw the dirt well up around the plant, and then cover it with leaves and brush.

2—The plant is not well suited to house culture. It needs a greenhouse. It will probably do better for the summer standing out where it will receive the full sunshine. After it drops its leaves in the autumn it should be kept in a cool place until ready to start again in the spring, but it probably will never prove very satisfactory as a house plant.

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### Tricolor Geraniums—Hyacinths.

1—Will you tell me what is the best treatment for fancy-leaved geraniums, as Mrs. Pollock, Zulu, Circle of Gold, Magician, etc. Should they have sunshine or not?

2—When a hyacinth sends up four spikes of bloom is it longer of value? E. B. F.

1—The tricolor geraniums make their best appearance when grown in a good light, but not in strong sunshine. In the greenhouse or conservatory or on a partially shaded veranda their colors are brighter than when planted outside.

2—It is not expected that when a first-class bulb of hyacinth has once bloomed it will again give another bloom of equal value. It is supposed to be sent out when in its best condition, and then having bloomed it commences the following year to deteriorate. A bulb after having given its best bloom, if planted in the garden and left there may continue for several years to give some blooms which will be useful for cutting.

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### La France Roses—Geraniums.

1—The La France roses that I bought last summer did not grow very well, we had so much rain, so I kept them in the house last winter. Do you think it will be safe to leave them out next winter? I left one out but it was dead this spring.

2—I had a common Fish geranium last summer which had clusters of bright red and pure white at the same time, sometimes having five and six clusters at the same time. Mrs. C. McF.

Manchester, Conn.

1—If the plants get a good growth this summer in the open ground, and ripen their wood well in autumn they may be so protected by soil and leaves and brush, or evergreen boughs, that they will stand the winter. A long and moderately warm autumn will greatly favor them.

2—Gardeners who handle large numbers of geraniums are accustomed to see occasionally plants such as described, and also, those with flowers variegated showing a reversion to ancestral types, and a commingling of the colors of flowers of two or more ancestors.

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### Gladiolus Running Out.

Several years ago—ten, perhaps—I ordered fifteen named varieties of gladiolus and have planted year after year, but for three years they have produced only one variety—common red and yellow striped. Is this a common thing?

Melrose Highlands, Mass.

Mrs. F. W.

The explanation of the circumstances above named is that some varieties of gladiolus produce bulbs more freely than others—that some kinds, in fact must have extra care to increase or even hold the original supply. That when mixed together the stronger growers are soon proportionally large in numbers, as well as in the size of the bulbs. Very likely there has, also, been a selection of the stronger bulbs for planting while the smaller ones have been rejected or given away, and so it comes about in the course of years that there is only one variety—a striking example of the survival of the fittest. If our correspondent had kept all these varieties separate and labeled, and each year at harvest time made a record of the number gathered of each kind, and in the spring recorded how many of each kind were successfully wintered and afterwards planted, then at this time it might be very clearly seen by such record how each variety had maintained itself, or increased, or disappeared.



**Poinciana—Anchusa—Wintering Begonias.**

1—I would like to have you tell me in the MAGAZINE if the Poinciana Gallesei can be successfully grown by amateurs and wintered in the cellar.

2—Does Anchusa Capensis bloom the first year from seed?

3—Please tell me, also, if flowering begonias can be wintered in the cellar and you will greatly oblige.

Mrs. F. R.

Sedalia, Mo.

1—As a rule we should not expect amateurs to be successful with this Poinciana, in house culture, but it might be possible that one should succeed in the manner mentioned. Instead of keeping the plant in the house or on the veranda in summer, it would undoubtedly be better for it to be plunged in the ground in its pot or tub, where it would be freely exposed to sun and air, so that it might ripen perfectly its wood. It would be necessary to attend carefully to watering, for, being in the ground, there would be danger that it might be neglected. It should be taken to the cellar only after it has dropped its leaves in autumn and when frosts are expected, and it would probably stand quite a little pinch of frost uninjured.

2—Anchusa Capensis does not bloom until the second year. It is a biennial. It should be well protected in winter with leaves or evergreen boughs.

3—Wintering in the cellar would certainly be death to the begonias. Such treatment of them cannot be advised. These plants need a continuous, mild and even temperature, ranging about 65 degrees.

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**The Black Calla.**

In answer to your invitation to subscribers to give their experience with black callas, I will give mine. Some years since a tourist who had been to the Holy Land brought back three bulbs and I received one of them. The first of September the bulb was put in an eight-inch pot of rich, loamy soil, with plenty of drainage. After being well watered the pot was placed in the cellar for a week and then it was brought up and set in a west window. It soon began to grow and during the winter produced eight leaves, but no buds.

About the first of May the leaves began to look yellow, and then water was withheld and the pot set on a shelf in the woodshed, where it remained all summer. In September the pot was emptied and the bulb repotted in fresh, rich soil. It received the same treatment as before, but this time it bloomed in January, having one large calla-shaped blossom of a brilliant coal black. The flower instead of being pointed at the end opposite to the opening, extended on for several inches, and was as large as a full-sized calla bloom. The fragrance was delicious, being like some rich fruit. While the flower cannot be said to be handsome, it is surely a curious freak of nature and well worth a trial. As soon as the flower began to fade the foliage did the same, and it was dried out as before.

The next year it produced three blossoms during the season, and two bulbs which have not been severed from the parent bulb. A friend, seeing the same thing advertised, sent for three bulbs and set them all in one large pot. The first year, only one of the bulbs bloomed, and last winter, one of them had two, one of them one, and the other, none. She thinks that perhaps the one that refused to bloom is like some callas that never have a blossom. If it still refuses to bloom, this coming winter, this may be the case. In these cases, the callas have been given the sun in a southwestern window, rich light soil and never allowed to become dry. The bulbs have rested for five months in each year, and been put into new soil when re-potted. The leaves have been sponged at least once each week, and a kettle of water kept upon the heater all the time. Very few plants refuse to bloom that are given intelligent care, but few of the novelties do well in the hands of amateurs.

Mrs. H. L. M.

Glendive, Mont.

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**Umbrella Plant—Sweet Peas—Rcinus.**

Mrs. A. E. M., of Queen City, Mo., explains in a long letter the trouble she has had with an umbrella plant, *Cyperus alternifolius*, not knowing how to care for it. It is a bog plant of the easiest culture. All it wants is a dish of water. Set in this and placed by the window it will thrive. The writer has kept a plant in fine condition for several years in a glass vase with a little sand in the bottom for the roots to run in. It is well enough to have a little soil or sand for the plant to fix its roots in, but beyond this it wants only water and light and the ordinary heat of a room. It does not want a pot with drainage, for in this case it will not get the water it needs.

The same correspondent also states that she has tried sweet peas several times and always failed with them, and now wants to know what to do to ensure success. Also, how to raise a castor-bean plant. Pages and pages of instructions have been written and published about raising sweet peas, but it all amounts to this: Plant the peas early in spring in good soil, two or three inches deep, and before or immediately after the plants come up supply brush, strings or twine netting for them to run on, and then keep the ground about them mellow by hoeing, and allow no weeds to grow. This is all, and it is very simple. If the soil should be heavy, the trench or furrow where the seeds are sown need not be completely filled at the planting time but the seeds can be covered about an inch and a half in depth, and after the plants have grown two or three inches the rest of soil can be drawn in about them; in sandy soil this precaution need not be observed. In sowing, the seeds can be set an inch or two apart.

Castor Beans should be planted about two inches deep, in very rich

soil, after all danger of frost is past and when the ground is warm, or in other words, in about the same conditions required for corn. When the plants are growing strongly they may be supplied to advantage with liquid manure.

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**Blister Beetle—French Name—Pruning Rambler Roses.**

1—Is there anything that will drive or destroy the old-fashioned potato or blister beetle—without injuring the blossoms of the plants such as asters, gladiolus, perennial phlox and clematis? They have nearly ruined the bloom on these plants for the last two years.

2—Will you also tell me how to pronounce the name Poitevine.

3—Should the old wood of the Rose Crimson Rambler be cut out this fall after it is done blooming, leaving the shoots of this year's growth for next year's flowers?

J. F. S.

Lewis Centre, Ohio.

1—These insects are difficult to contend with. Something may be done by going about the plants in the morning and shaking or brushing them into a pan having a little kerosene in it, and held underneath. Another way of attacking them is by spraying with Paris green; take one ounce Paris green and mix with twelve gallons of water. Keep well stirred while spraying. This mixture can be improved by the addition of lime milk. Take one ounce of quick lime and add enough water to slake it, and then strain the liquid through a fine sieve in order to exclude any of the lime sediment. Mix with the water and Paris green above mentioned. The lime has two effects. It neutralizes any acid in the Paris green and so prevents injury to foliage, and secondly, it is deposited on the foliage with the Paris green, causing the latter better to stick. Of course the plants will be disfigured by the presence of the lime. If the insects could be destroyed or driven off before their blooming season, there might be less objection to the use of this insecticide. Where it is found that these insects visit certain classes of plants and come every season, as stated by our correspondent, it would seem to be wisdom to give up the cultivation of them for one or two seasons, and thus possibly escape their visits for some time afterwards.

2—This is a French name, and the best course, ordinarily, is to pronounce such words as near as can be with the English sounds of the letters. The French pronunciation, as near as can be indicated, is Pwat-veen; that is *oi* is sounded like *wa* in water, while *i* has the sound of our letter *e*.

3—No. We have prepared engravings showing how the Crimson Ramblers and the climbers may be pruned and trained. The series is commenced in the present number and will be continued for several months.

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**PLANT LICE.**

Bulletin No. 139 of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station (Geneva) will be found most helpful to the orchardist or small fruit-grower if plant lice are as numerous this season as they were during 1897. It will be sent free on application. The lice which were so injurious during the past season, belong chiefly to three species, one affecting the plum and two the currant. The bulletin gives a complete description of these species with a full account of their most interesting and most peculiar life history. Unlike most insects, these little bugs, or *Hemiptera*, are not produced, from eggs during most of the season, but are born alive from a "stem mother," or from the successive generations, all females, which are the only forms found in early summer. Then true males and females are produced and the winter eggs are laid from which the "stem mothers" emerge in the spring.

The lice are sucking and not biting insects, which live upon the juices drawn through their pump-like mouth-parts from within the tissues of the leaves or young growth. They cause the leaves to become distorted and curled up, and are thus protected so that remedial measures are ineffective unless applied quite early in the season.

As they do not eat the outer tissues, Paris green and such poisons are ineffective, but kerosene emulsion, whale oil soap solution, kerosene-water mixture, tobacco decoction or some other contact poison must be used.

If these are applied thoroughly, beginning as soon as signs of the lice appear, they may be kept in check. If treatment is delayed until the leaves are curled up, it will be necessary to cut off the worst affected leaves and spray those remaining.

In ordinary seasons little damage is to be expected from the lice as their natural enemies, the larvæ of the syrphus flies, lady bird beetles and larvæ, aphid lions and ichneumon flies keep their numbers well reduced in spite of their exceedingly rapid rate of increase.

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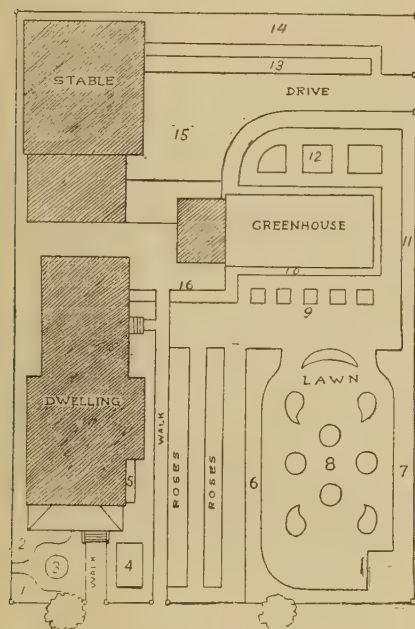
DESTROY the black squash-bugs by picking them off and throwing them into a pail containing a little kerosene.



### A REMARKABLE TOWN FLOWER GARDEN.

THE writer almost daily passes a home garden which shows the wonderful capacity of a small area of land to yield a varied and endless show of floral beauty under intelligent management. The garden occupies a prominent corner where two streets cross, and consists of about one-third of an acre of land, including the space occupied by the buildings; these, with the walks and a rear drive, cover nearly one-half the entire area. The width of the lot is 100 feet, and the depth about 150 feet. A plan of the garden is shown in the accompanying engraving. Now this area may not have been treated in the most successful manner, from a landscape gardening standpoint, but this is no indication that the garden is not a decided success for all that. It is really a great success. One of the things that has made it so is that it is owned and managed by a genuine lover of flowers. Another factor contributing has been that the garden, so far as its furnishings go, has developed step by step from a small beginning. First there was a single flower bed or two on a large lawn; that was some fifteen years ago. Since that time each year has seen additions to the space devoted to flowers, until now these occupy about as much ground as does the lawn itself.

The greenhouse dates from about ten years ago, and that marked the beginning of considerably more space devoted to summer bedding plants in order to accommodate the product of the glass. But this was a gain in other respects also, for the summer flower beds were liberally devoted to spring-flowering bulbs, with the result that the garden is rich with thousands of tulips, hyacinths and crocuses in their season.



A SUCCESSFUL FLOWER GARDEN.

As regards the distribution of material a reference to the figures in the plan will be helpful. The beds 1, 2, 3, being partly shaded, are devoted to palms and other choice plants in pots during the summer; there is usually a fine showing of tuberous begonias also. The beds 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 12 are filled with tender bedding plants with bright flowers and foliage, being preceded by hardy bulbs. Two long rose beds occupy a somewhat central position, as indicated. The borders 6, 7, 11, 13 and 14 are devoted chiefly to hardy flowering shrubs and plants, comprising a large assortment. The collection is especially rich in hardy lilies and azaleas. During the season of frosts the greenhouse is well stocked with flowering and other plants.

Especial attention is paid to the growing of chrysanthemums for autumn and geranium for spring decorations. The owner of this splendid example of year-round gardening is a professional man, who spends much of his spare time among his plants and flowers. It remains to be said that the conspicuous location of the garden gives to it great importance in the eyes of the flower-loving public. People put themselves out of the way to pass the garden and behold its beauties.

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### MOUND BUILDING vs. FENCE BUILDING.

SOME years ago I enlarged my cellar and put the earth into a ridge or embankment running from near the house to the margin of the road, most of the dirt being a heavy yellow clay. I tore up sumac roots and buried a line of them along the summit and a row of these trees, fifteen feet or so high, stands upon it now. A few having died, I set a privet or two, which are growing fast. The whole of the ground slopes to the north and a low flight of stone steps leads a path to the lower ground. I am afraid the bank is too much in the bush pasture style, with seedling maples, self-sown New England asters, perennial phloxes, sumac sprouts, spiræa, burning bush, etc. I don't believe I care to photograph it for publication. Still, in its summer dress,—but the condition of this particular ridge is not what I intend to write about. To advocate the making of similar ones, either as boundaries between different places, or divisions of your own, in place of the dreadful picket or ornamental (?) iron fences is what I have to offer.

No fence at all is an excellent way, if you can only think so, but it seems difficult to do this; people want to see their boundary line, apparently, whether the fence has any other use or not, so they dwell in what looks like a chicken yard, with immense satisfaction. You may say my earthworks would not keep out hens, etc., but the picket fence is not likely to do so either, especially if gates are open a part or all of the time. To pay the artists in lumber, etc., is apt to be your part in the picket fence,—you may have the pleasure of making the mound yourself. The picket fence begins to decay as soon as it is done; the grassy mound is for all time. And if your unlucky yard is a square piece of flatness the ridge will diversify it, especially if perennials and shrubs are grouped upon its sides and summit. An east and west line will have a warm and sunny nook for early spring flowers,—daisies, crocus, tulips, etc., along its south side; the northern face will be good for blue periwinkle, Vinca minor, and most shrubs.

Solid, clayey earth can be laid up quite steep; I have had no experience with sand, but should suppose it would not be so good, either to build with or for the growth of plants; but you may conclude otherwise when you try it. If you own both sides of such a ridge you have more ground than before, if your line is along the summit you have lost nothing. You are not compelled to follow a straight line,—build out wider here and there, setting shrubs, etc., upon the flat summits, making nooks and bays between. We all remember the old Irishman who was so homely, that, as he said, his "face offended the landscape," and the picket fence is apt to do the same thing.

E. S. GILBERT.

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### OUTDOOR PROPAGATION OF ROSES.

In the extreme south many florists consider layering the most satisfactory method for outdoor propagation of roses, and in a climate where the rose makes such vigorous growth in a season this system certainly has much to recommend it. Where there is abundant growth suitable for layering it would be no difficult task to propagate and have ready for sale in a very short time any quantity of large, salable plants. The southern florists usually layer directly into pots; these are plunged deep into the soil all around the plant that is to furnish the layers, as many pots as there are available shoots. When they are all in position (and full of soil) a stout stake is put down firmly outside of but close to each pot, the shoots are bent over, a slit is made on the under side directly above the pot, the part cut is pressed down into the pot, covered with soil, and pegged down to hold it secure; the operation is completed by tying the end of the shoot to the stake. It is not a very difficult feat and need not necessarily consume very much time, besides if the weather is at all favorable success is reasonably certain. In a short time the shoot will have thrown out roots immediately above the cut and it can then be severed from the parent plant. The work is always done in the early fall, as soon as the wood is mature and climatic conditions favorable. Cuttings of outdoor roses are sometimes rooted in a coldframe with just enough protection to keep off the strong sunshine, drying winds and freezing cold. For the State of Georgia the early part of October would probably be the best season to put in the cuttings.

This is a time-honored mode of propagating, but for rooting hardy roses, either north or south, I would recommend in preference a hotbed and the summer months for the work. All that is required is a good deep frame facing north or south, plenty of stable manure, good sash and movable shade. Fill the frame with manure almost up to the glass and tread it thoroughly; cover with three inches of clean, coarse sand; when the bottom heat registers 90°, with a tendency downwards, put in cuttings, water thoroughly the first time, afterwards sprinkle and water as may be needed to preserve the foliage crisp and fresh. Keep frame close until roots begin to form; a little air morning and evening to carry off excessive moisture will be sufficient. Shade whenever sun shines, but at other times give full benefit of the light. Cotton cloth stretched on a frame gives about the right amount of shade, and if it is suspended some distance from the glass to allow a circulation of air between the two, it will help materially in keeping down the temperature. With good cuttings from fairly well matured wood and good attention, a frame of this kind will root from eighty to one hundred per cent., according to variety. After potting, the plants should have the same treatment as regards shade, light and air for a few days as recommended for the cuttings.—Robert Simpson, in *The American Florist*.

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IRRIGATE with a rake. There is no better way to retain the moisture in the soil than to keep the surface soil fine and mellow. This can best be done by frequently stirring the soil with a rake. A garden managed this way will have little need of the water can.



### A VEGETABLE GARDEN IN TENNESSEE.

The engravings on this page represent views in the garden of Mr. M. E. Hiatt, an enterprising trucker or vegetable gardener near Clarksville, Tenn. After years of labor Mr. Hiatt has fitted his grounds so that they are well adapted to produce the greatest results with the least expenditure of time and work, and he is to be congratulated for his energy, foresight and success.

At the left is a view of hotbeds and frames, with growing vegetables. In the center the water is flowing from an iron pipe, showing that it has considerable force; it is brought from a tank which may be noticed in the upper part of the picture. The tank is supplied through a pipe from a natural and unfailing spring three-fourths of a mile distant and situated a hundred feet higher; no pumping, therefore, is necessary, but there is a continuous flow by gravity. The water is carried by iron pipes all through the garden fitted at intervals with hose attachments, so that at all times the crops can be abundantly supplied with the necessary moisture.

The upper engraving gives a central view

plant and other vegetables in their season. Mr. Hiatt writes, "I am this season trying Vick's Ideal Cauliflower. I have had some head already, and June 11th I sent one to a customer weighing five pounds with outer leaves trimmed off, and it measured twelve inches in diameter." It is to be hoped that Mr. Hiatt may long be able to care for this garden which he loves so well, and to which he is so well adapted.

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### HINTS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.

Below will be found recipes for cooking vegetables now in market. These have all been used by experts and found excellent.

**Scalloped Tomatoes**—Put a layer of sliced tomatoes in bottom of dish, season well with pepper, salt and butter; over this a layer of thin slices of bread well

kettle of salted, boiling water, and cook fifteen minutes; drain. Put a tablespoonful of butter in a saucepan, add a tablespoonful of flour, mix; add a half pint of milk and stir continually until boiling; add a half a teaspoonful of salt, a dash of pepper and then the peas. Stand over boiling water about five minutes and serve as a garnish to baked, broiled or fried sweetbreads, or squabs.

**Gradus Peas**—Gather early in the morning, put in a cool place until time to shell. Have water boiling, add salt, then the peas; boil for twenty or thirty minutes until nearly dry; add one pint milk, one-half cup cream and small piece of butter; serve hot. Gradus peas need no sugar.

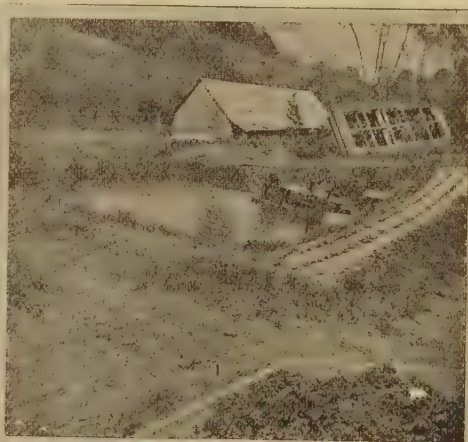
**Asparagus**—Trim the stalks and tie them in bundles, the heads all one way. Put into well salted boiling water, and boil for twenty-five minutes. Lift carefully, drain, and arrange neatly upon slices of nicely browned buttered toast. Pour over it drawn butter or sauce Hollandaise.

**Asparagus and Eggs**—Cut asparagus into bits half an inch long, boil until tender, drain dry, put in saucepan with a cup of rich drawn butter, let it come to a boil, season with salt and pepper, pour into a buttered bake dish; break five or six eggs carefully over the top, put a bit of butter upon each, sprinkle with salt and pepper, put in the oven until the eggs are set. Can put toast under asparagus if you wish.

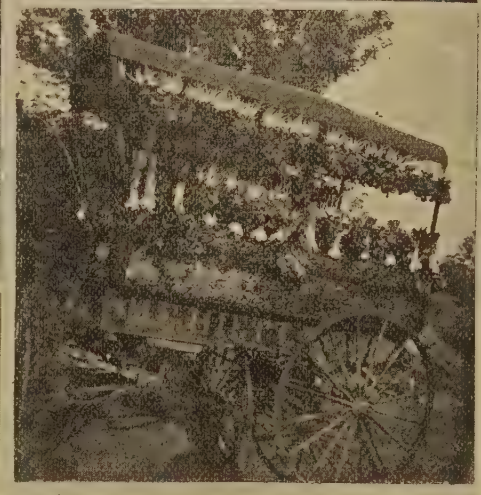
**Spinach**—Boil tender in salted water; drain dry and chop in chopping bowl; put in a saucepan over the fire and add a little cream or milk and butter; stir till hot, and press smoothly in a vegetable dish and garnish with hard boiled eggs.



NORTH-WEST VIEW OF HOTBEDS.



CENTER PART AND POND. THE LOADED WAGON.



SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF HOTBED.

in the garden with a pool of water for ornament. A waste-pipe from the pool leads off the excess of water, keeping pure that in the pool and making a pleasant home for the trout that occupy it. Some rows of plants along the border of the pool represent rows of Grand Rapids lettuce; this crop is liberally supplied with water while growing. After this crop is cleared the border of the pool is set with flowering bedding plants for the summer. The building is the vegetable house, where all the vegetables are brought and washed and then packed for market. The house is well supplied with water from the spring, and a vat or tank, sixteen feet long, four feet wide and four feet deep, is kept filled with water running into and out of it all the time; here all the vegetables are washed before being sent away, and the market wagon is driven in here to be loaded. The dwelling house is also amply supplied with water from the spring.

The engraving at the right gives a view in another part of the garden.

The wagon, as seen in the lower engraving, shows that it is loaded for business and that the Clarksville citizens are to be well supplied with onions, radishes, beets, lettuce, asparagus, pie-

buttered, another of tomatoes, and so on until the dish is full. Bake two hours.

**Tomatoes in the half-shell**—Choose good, solid, not over-ripe, tomatoes. Rinse and cut into halves, put them on a wire broiler, skin side down, and broil about five minutes. Have ready a dish of buttered toast, lift each piece of tomato carefully and slide it on a square of toast; season lightly with salt and pepper, put a small piece of butter on each piece and serve at once, or use cream sauce.

**Plain baked tomatoes**—Select the desired number of sound, solid tomatoes, rinse and place in a granite or porcelain baking-pan. Put them in a moderate oven and bake for forty minutes. When done, lift carefully without breaking the skins and slide each one on a piece of buttered toast. Serve whole. Let each one season to suit one's self.

**Peas**—Throw freshly shelled peas in a kettle of well salted boiling water, and boil ten minutes; draw; add a good sized piece of butter and a little pepper; serve hot. If the peas are old they must be boiled twenty minutes. Long boiling destroys both flavor and color of green peas.

**Peas with cream sauce**—Put one quart of peas in a

### BRIEFS.

FOR THE greenworm which sometimes preys on mignonette, use a small teaspoonful of Paris green to two gallons of water, keeping it well stirred. Spray once a week, if necessary, until no longer present.

THE trifoliate orange is the best stock for grafting on. It is very hardy, and it also has the effect to dwarf the trees.

USE a solution of sulphide of potash—lime of sulphur—one ounce to four gallons of water, to syringe mildewed gooseberry plants.

## HOT WEATHER

Takes your strength. You lose your appetite, feel dull and weak and every movement is an effort. Hood's Sarsaparilla will help you. It will tone the stomach, create an appetite and rouse and strengthen the digestive powers. It will vitalize the blood and give life and energy to the whole body. Try a bottle. It will brace you up wonderfully. Remember

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THE SONG OF THE WHEAT.

Up from the dearth and the darkness,  
With all my bright banners close furled,  
I sprang at the call of the sunshine  
Into the beautiful world;  
Sprang into life and alertness  
From sleep that was like to the dead,  
With a heart that was anxious and eager,  
For the children were crying for bread.  
Slowly, with patient endeavor,  
Not counting it wearisome toil,  
I gathered the strength of the sunshine,  
The sweetness sent up by the soil;  
By graces of shower and shadow  
My riches at length were unrolled,  
Till now—bring your gladsome thanksgiving—  
The land runs with rivers of gold.

Whisper the soft blowing breezes,  
Swept up from the Southland to me,  
Of hope in the hearts of the people  
Which soon should be springing so free;  
All these are now finding fruition,  
And buoyant and light is the tread  
Of armies abreast 'neath my banners,  
For the children, the children, are fed.

—DART FAIRTHORNE.

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OBSERVATIONS ON A HOP VINE.

IN one corner of the old homestead garden there grew a hop vine which reached a wonderful height during the summer. I used to think of Jack and his marvelous beanstalk, when I saw this hop vine climbing up so high.

Most twining plants, as the convolvulus, etc., turn away from the sun, but the hop always twines with the sun. Unless we stop to think about it, we are likely to suppose that vines twine, just as it happens, one way or another, according to the manner in which they start, but as stated above, the hop vine always twines with the sun, while the morning glory turns in the opposite direction. Another point of interest in the hop is the variation of its leaves. While the first or earlier

leaves are very slightly, if at all lobed, the later ones, or those on mature portions of the vine are very deeply lobed. Indeed, when looking over a series of leaves, one is at a loss as to the purpose of the plant, or nature's purpose, in bringing about these changes. In the last leaf in the illustration one is fearful lest the lobes of the leaf will eventually become so small at the base that there will be nothing left of them.

The more lobed the leaf becomes the less leaf surface there is to expose to the air and sunlight, and since the leaves are as lungs to the plant, does it mean a more restricted enjoyment of life, a curtailed amount of food material, and consequently a less vigorous growth, or does the notching and lobing prove beneficial to the



HOP LEAVES IN DIFFERENT STAGES OF DIVISION.

growth of the plant? It is certainly more economical to grow less leaf surface, from the plants standpoint, if a less amount is required. It seems somewhat like the comparison of muscle and mind in the performance of labor. Mind does with so much less exertion what muscle tries to do.

The plant comes to know, in a way, that if the leaves are lobed, or much divided, it requires less leaf surface to perform the same amount of work. The spaces between the lobes act as so many windows or contrivances for the utilization of the sunshine and fresh air, and the plant finds that it can live better with less effort if its leaves are divided, and oftentimes could not get a breath of air or a ray of light, if these provisions for making the most of their opportunities were disregarded. Of course the old hop vine in the garden had the luxury of all the sunshine and air that it could appropriate. but in their original homes, in wet or swampy places, they are generally shaded by the growth of other vegetation; they climb over the shrubs or small trees which are overshadowed by larger trees; and then need the full leaf surface, with each leaf undivided; but in cultivation being fully exposed to the sun, they keep abreast of the times, remodel their leaves, and prosper according to their power of adaptation.

MRS. W. A. KELLERMAN.

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CURL LEAF OF THE PEACH.

The curl leaf of the peach has always been to the fruit grower an annoying incident for which there was apparently no remedy. Unless the attack was very severe, and this seldom occurred, new leaves would replace those which had fallen and the functions of the tree appear to be not greatly impaired. Still, some varieties suffered very much more than others, losing their fruit in great part or entirely, for the loss of the leaves in all cases causes more or less fruit to drop. It now appears probable that the Bordeaux mixture, that wonderful accidental discovery, may be efficient in overcoming this peach disease. The Ohio Experiment Station has been engaged for three years past in making a study of this and other peach diseases, and seeking means to overcome them. The results of this work have lately been published in Bulletin 92, by the Station named, at Wooster, Ohio.

It is shown that curl leaf flourishes under conditions of low temperature and abundant rainfall for April and May, especially if these conditions follow a season of excessive leaf curl. Two such seasons following each other have just been experienced, and there is widespread complaint of the curling, coloring and falling of the leaves affected with the fungus. It has also been noted that the leaf curl prevails to a greater extent upon several fine varieties, including Elberta, Oldmixon, Mountain Rose, Globe, the Crawfords, Red Cheek, Chair's Choice, and some others, while Salway, Smock, Wheeler, and some others are much less susceptible, though somewhat injured at times. Trees badly attacked by curl are liable to drop much or all of the fruit.

The spraying experiments were conducted on a commercial scale in coöperation with Mr. Wm. Miller, of Ottawa county, Ohio, and have been carried on for three years. It has been shown that Bordeaux mixture is a profitable fungicide for scab, pustular spot and leaf curl, the stronger mixture being used for the application before blossoming, while half the strength can be used to good advantage after the leaves are out. The first spraying for leaf curl, to be effective, must be made as the buds are swelling and just before the blossoms open, followed by another after blooming. These two sprayings in 1897 reduced the proportion of curled leaves (diseased) from 88 per cent. on unsprayed to 41 per cent. on the sprayed trees, a difference believed to be sufficient to hold the crop of fruit. The results are even more striking when unsprayed trees were compared with those treated two years in succession. In 1897 such had but seven to eight per cent. of curled leaves while the unsprayed for the same time had 88 per cent. curl.

A Leather Lesson

Thick leather isn't always durable. Thin leather isn't always comfortable. Oily leather isn't always waterproof. Dear leather isn't always best. Low price leather isn't always cheap. Vici Kid is always reliable. This is the reason it is fast superseding all other leathers. Vici Kid is the only leather that repels the cold, yet absorbs no heat. It is the only leather free from oil, yet impervious to water. It is the only leather soft enough for comfort, strong enough for any kind of wear.

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makes the most beautiful shoes for women, the most comfortable shoes for men, the most durable shoes for children (all colors). The genuine never varies in quality, no matter where you get it. Genuine Vici Kid is made only by R. H. Foerderer. To insure getting it and not an imitation, ask your dealer for Foerderer's Vici Kid. Vici Leather Dressing makes all shoes look better and wear better.

Ask your dealer for it. A book about buying, wearing and caring for shoes mailed free.

ROBERT H. FOERDERER, Philadelphia.







A lively hoe now.  
Beet sowing is still in order.  
The more fruit the better health.  
Make cuttings of coleus for winter.  
Never follow strawberries with strawberries.  
Everyone is interested in the new varieties.  
Lawn mowers have revolutionized the home lawn.

One hundred quarts of raspberries will make thirty pounds of dried fruit.

Young trees must not be put to work too hard; letting them overbear will be at too great a cost in diminished crops in after years.

Place fresh soil over the first and second joints of young squash vines. This will produce roots to sustain the vine in case borers get in their work.

A vase or a flower pot is not watered unless the ball of earth is soaked to the very center. Many a plant is killed in summer by neglect in this vital regard.

A Paragon chestnut tree set out on the writer's grounds nine years ago, has set fruit freely, with one exception, every year since planting. But then this is a chestnut soil, where the native nuts grow to perfection.

The best lesson the writer ever had on the advantages of thinning fruit, was some years ago when the thinning took place by natural process at blossoming time. The blooms, especially of pears, were so few that no one expected a crop. But the sparseness of bloom was, after all, for giving, instead of a small crop, one of the largest yields ever known. Size and quality of the fruit was the very highest.

Winter forcing of asparagus. It sounds strangely to hear of forcing asparagus in the open ground in January, with the thermometer indicating zero at times. But that is just what Prof. J. C. Whitten, of the Columbia, Missouri, Experiment Station, reports as his experience for several seasons past. The forcing is done by running steam through some earth tunnels constructed between the asparagus rows in the garden. The remarkable thing is that so little steam was required to each tunnel daily. On beds where the first steam was turned on December 29th, the first asparagus was cut fourteen days later; the last on February 25th, fifty-eight days after the first steaming. The plan seems to possess merit on a small scale.

Raising fruit seedlings. Children especially will find much delight in some experimental work in raising new varieties of strawberries, raspberries, etc. To obtain the necessary seed choose the best shaped berries when well ripened; squeeze the pulp into some clean sand, rubbing them together between the hands to separate the seed. After several weeks select a spot of good light soil which is partially shaded, on which scatter the seed and sand as evenly as possible; then cover the bed by sifting on some light soil or a mixture of leafmold and sand, afterwards patting it down with the

back of a spade. If the bed is moderately moist the seeds should come up in less than a month. Let the plants grow where they are, and in the fall cover an inch deep with straw or evergreen boughs. In the spring the plants may be set in another bed for fruiting, or if they do not stand too close they may remain in the seed bed until they show what they are by bearing.

A lawn says "Welcome." One of my neighbors who is fortunate in having a lawn with a marked slope towards the street, recently carried out an idea, on the occasion of many visitors to the town, that was much admired. It was so simple a thing as raised letters of grass, the word "welcome," on the slope, as shown in the accompanying cut. All that was necessary in making the letters was a little careful work with the lawn mower and grass shears. First, the entire lawn was closely mowed, excepting a plaque the exact size of the word; to have the plaque of equal width throughout, it was first outlined by white twine and a few light pegs. Later, in forming the letters, each one was similarly outlined; the cutting of the grass was done with the mower up to the twine; corners and circles were finished with grass shears. As completed, the letters represented a height of grass of the last cutting, that is, fully two inches higher than the new cutting. This brought out the letters distinctly.



A WELCOME FROM THE LAWN.

No one could pass the lawn without being impressed by the pretty grassy invitation.—L. M. Bark.

\* \*

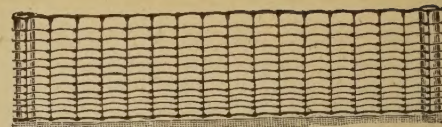
#### CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES.

Several diseases are apt to develop on cucumbers where they are raised on a large area for pickles. Bulletin 119 of the New York Experiment Station will be found valuable to those are raising cucumbers largely. In the Popular Edition of Bulletin 138, of the same Station, in alluding to the experiments of 1897 with cucumbers the writer states that as a result of spraying with Bordeaux mixture there was a gain of seventy-five per cent. in the number of cucumbers and 100 per cent. in their weight. The following conclusions are stated:

The thorough spraying gave complete immunity from downy mildew, partial protection against anthracnose, and seemed to check somewhat the bacterial wilt disease; and this result was obtained under the very unfavorable condition of proximity to rows in which the diseases were allowed full sway.

Spraying cucumbers need not be begun before June 15th, but after that date, on both early and late crops, it should be frequent and thorough.

**Away with Your Screen Doors.** All flies vanish as if by magic. By mail secure for only 10 cents. P. O. Box 26, Chillicothe, Ohio.



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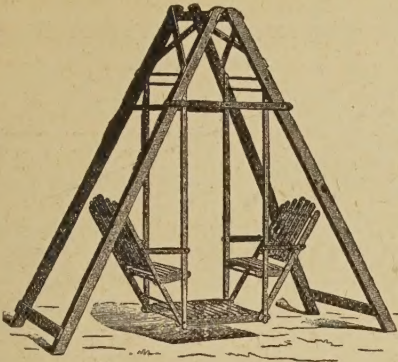
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## LADIES

Monthly Regulator. Never fails. Send 4 cents for WOMAN'S SAFE GUARD. Wilcox Med. Co., Dept. 68, Philadelphia, Pa.

## THE FAMILY COZY-CORNER

### MONTANA NOTES.

The plants and seeds I ordered came in good condition. The rubber plant has a new leaf and does not seem to know that it has been moved; I thank you for your careful manner of sending plants. The Daybreak aster seed that I planted in the house began to come up thirty-six hours after it was planted, and by actual count every seed came up.

I am anxious to get a plant of Asparagus Sprengeri, but have loaned your catalogue, and do not remember whether you catalogue it or not.

I want to say a word in favor of the Polyantha rose Clothilde Soupert. In the semi-tropic dryness of eastern Montana, roses even in the house have been out of the question. About a year ago I received this rose as a present, and although it has not been over five inches high, it has bloomed four times. It dies down nearly to the ground, and then a strong shoot comes up and bears from one to three roses, which are about two inches across; these remain two or three weeks before falling off. It has just had four blooms. You may not think this is anything wonderful for a rose, but it is a wonder out here.

The alkali dust in summer is like wood ashes, and dries the foliage of roses and many other plants, but it seems to just suit the chrysanthemum. The Yucca grandiflora is a native of this section of the country, and the flower stalk often reaches the height of six and seven feet, while the blossoms extend along the stalk for from two to five feet. They have a very unpleasant odor, and in many cases are covered with pink and green lice. The plants are very hard to transplant, having roots that reach down for several feet.

Glendive, Montana.

MRS. H. L. M.

### UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

I wonder if the MAGAZINE visits another home where the resources of the ordinary flower grower are so strained as here, 6,000 feet above sea level, among the Blue Mountains of arid, windy, capricious Eastern Oregon, whose hills have never trembled 'neath the iron horse, and the weather yields to no recognized law of nature; where the mercury rarely falls below zero in coldest winter, yet is liable after a warm day to drop below frost line any month in summer; where from May to December dews are almost unknown, and rain may also be a minus quantity during this season; where February is likely to carpet the brown hills with bunch grass, which April may cover deep with snow, and May itself is scarcely warm enough to plant seeds in open ground; where autumn is long and perfect, and the heaviest rains of the year may fall in winter; where wild roses grow from fifteen to twenty feet tall and cover themselves with a profusion of bloom ranging from faint blush to crimson pink, yet cultivated roses are almost a failure, though given the greatest care; where, if you wish to transplant the daintiest of wildlings, you will need to exchange your trowel and knife for a dynamite bomb and pick-axe, for wild flowers here seem to grow from the center of the earth; where scorching heat, sudden chill, and long continued drouth unite with all things living to destroy every green thing from off the face of the earth; where regulation flower pots are out of the question, but the amateur has an almost endless variety of cans, buckets, tubs, kegs and boxes to choose from, as nearly all family supplies come in such receptacles, and when properly cleaned and holes bored or punched in the bottoms, they answer the new purpose nearly as well as the one for which they were originally intended.

If other readers are similarly situated they may perhaps appreciate my situation, and, if beginners, profit by the knowledge I have gained through seven years of great tribulation.

Impelled by a passionate love of flowers, and the natural homesickness of one transplanted from a pretty city home on the beautiful banks of the Mississippi to a pioneer box house in a cañon in this wild but grandly beautiful region, over which Mount Hood and his white capped court hold imperial reign, I

have struggled desperately, and often hopelessly, with the problem of how to have flowers in our home. More than once I have "fired" to the bottom of the cañon every one of my improvised flower pots, each containing its particular treasure of plant life,—or more properly, plant death,—vowing never, never to try again. But I did try again and yet again, until success, fairly badgered into smiling on me, the past year has almost laughed in my face. In my next I will tell how to succeed, based on my experience.

Eastern Oregon.

EVAN.

### THE CHICAGO FLOWER MISSION.

I have raised flowers from childhood, and did not know until last year that those who live in the country and small villages could have a share in this beautiful Flower Mission work. It was a continual joy all last summer, each Monday to get the flowers ready for shipping—pansies, sweet peas, nasturtiums, etc.—each as its season came, was sent to the Chicago Mission; Tuesday is the distributing day. All of the seed came from Vick's. My parents went to housekeeping thirty-four years ago, and bought the seeds for their first garden from James Vick, and some one of the family has, with very few exceptions, purchased seeds from your house each year from that time to the present.

The flowers seemed to understand that there was an added reason for them to do their very best last year, and all gave a bountiful supply of blossoms; but the Branching aster outdid all the others, I think. I purchased two papers of seed last spring, and such a glorious bed of asters as I had in the fall! I sent 280 good sized bouquets of the lovely blossoms to the Mission. The secretary wrote that the flowers were so very beautiful they were used for special bouquets. Won't you please give us a list of flowers that are good shippers, and also tell us what we can cultivate in sweet-smelling plants, as they make a special request for fragrant flowers. Also the best way of packing the flowers for shipment that they may arrive at their destination as fresh and sweet as possible.

All the express companies carry the flowers free if the Mission shipping tag is attached. Anyone who may be interested in the Chicago Flower Mission can get reports of the work and the tags by sending to the secretary, Mrs. Stephen G. Holland, 11 University Place, Chicago, Ill.

MRS. H. P.

Lodi, Wis.

In response to the above request the following list of fragrant flowers is given and may serve as a guide when making selections next winter. An additional list is also given of six varieties of flowers that will ship well, are handsome, and can easily be raised from seed:

#### FRAGRANT FLOWERS.

Sweet Alyssum	Roses
Mignonette	Tropæolum
Sweet Peas	Verbena
Candytuft	Violets
Heliotrope	Pansies

#### SIX GOOD SHIPPERS.

Brachycome	Larkspur
Centaurea	Myosotis
Calliopsis	Scabiosa

#### INSECTS.

The most common is the aphid, or as it is commonly called the "green fly." But this gentleman has different suits for different localities; on chrysanthemums and some other plants he wears his black suit. But his every-day, or at least his most common suit, is green. When he visits the roots of our plants he dons a blue suit; when our asters, verbenas, etc., droop and die with no apparent reason, quite likely the cause is "blue aphid." Fortunately this gentleman is too fastidious to acquire the tobacco habit, and is easily laid low by applications of tobacco water made about the color of ordinary tea. If applied when the plants first begin to droop and die, one application may be sufficient, but usually it takes about a week of frequent and thorough application of tobacco tea to fix the whole family. Understand, please, that this tobacco water is to be applied to the roots of the plants,—not to the foliage.

The green aphid is more easily conquered by prevention than cure, and this time by tobacco smoke. If there is a smoker in the family, see that he enjoys his smoke near your plants; or you can smoke them yourself by putting a few coals in a pan on some

## JOSEPH GILLOTT'S STEEL PENS,

### THE STANDARD PENS OF THE WORLD.

Numbers 303, 404, 604 E. F., 332, 601 E. F., 1044, and stubs 1008, 1043, and others  
Highest Awards, Paris Exposition, 1878 and 1889, and Chicago, 1893.



ashes and on the coals a handful of tobacco stems; invert over the pan a funnel, and place the whole a little lower than the plants, changing from place to place to give them all a smoke. But a better way for those who object to tobacco smoke is to get tobacco stems and dust and put a layer on the soil in the pots and boxes; the odor is scarcely perceptible, even to the most fastidious nose. When the plants are watered, the water is tintured with tobacco before it reaches the roots of the plants, making a most unpleasant habitation for "bugs and things." The imperceptible vapor that rises from the tobacco each time the plants are watered keeps the foliage free from nearly all insects. This treatment is particularly good for roses, as tobacco smoke causes many of the buds to blight. Plants out of doors should be dusted with powdered tobacco when the foliage is wet with dew or just after a shower, or if nature will not moisten the plants for you, use a sprinkler or sprayer, for the leaves must be wet when the tobacco is applied. Another equally good way, but more laborious, is to steep tobacco stems in water until it is the color of strong tea; after it gets cold syringe the plants with it.

I think the red spider the most insidious plant foe I ever had to contend with,—and in this case, also, prevention is far easier than cure. If not acquainted with the red spider he can work sad havoc among the plants before his presence is suspected. He is such a tiny fellow that it would take thousands to make a spider the size of the one usually looked for by the average flower grower. For all he is such a villainous little pest, there is always at hand a remedy, safe, sure, and cheap, one that will not hurt the plants nor poison the baby, and this wonderful remedy is nothing but *water*. When the foliage of your plants begins to have a grayish-brown look, and appears to be lifeless and possibly partially covered with very fine webs, know then that the red spider is at work and probably has been busy for six weeks, while all the time you and your plants have been living in an atmosphere too hot and dry. As you did not spray your plants, keep wet sponges or bowls of water among them, did not even think of putting a pan of water under the plant stand and dropping a hot brick in it occasionally, or of keeping a dish of water on the stove, register or radiator as a preventive which would certainly have kept the red spider out, you must now use the cure, followed by preventives to avoid future recurrences of the same trouble. Dip such of your plants as you can into a tub or pail of tepid water. This is not so formidable a job as one would think; for the small plant put one hand over the top of the pot, letting the plant come up between the middle fingers, take the pot in the other hand, turn it upside down and move the plant gently about

in the water. Larger plants can have a paper or cloth tied over the top of the pot and be laid on one side in the water, if too large to invert. If you have a plant syringe or small sprayer you can spray the foliage. Sprinkling the upper side of the foliage would help as a preventive, but would not effect a cure; the red spider works wholly on the under side of the leaves, and, having become established, the water on the outside of his house wouldn't amount to much, but keeping the inside of it (or the under side of the foliage) wet, completely "disgruntles" him, and he will move out, taking all his friends and neighbors with him. D. L.

\*\*

### GARDEN NOTES.

Give oleanders, when growing, plenty of water and frequent douches.

Fuchsias, begonias, primulas and violets require little sunshine; roses more, and cacti most of all.

One or two plants well kept are more satisfactory than a hundred crowded into a small space and poorly cared for.

Frequently wash the Tea roses and rinse with clean water. Give liquid manure once a week, but see that the soil is not dry when applied.

Water the calla and cereus with hot water to encourage bloom. Never move a cactus after the buds have set,—it will cause them to drop.

Foil the striped bugs by placing over your vines a thin covering of cotton batting well tucked down around the edge and held with a little soil drawn over. Mr. Bug does not like to get entangled in the fiber. E. W. P.

\*\*

### SOME GOOD FASHION NEWS.

First comes the new collar—the crush velvet collar. It is on all the imported gowns, and is just a quarter yard of bias velvet, unlined, laid in soft folds, hooked in the back, with no trimming, and finished in front with a knot of lace which heads the white vest.

That is the second new. It is epidemic. The collar appears in all colors—blue, cherry-rose, amber, mauve, heliotrope, either in contrast with the gown or matching it, or more commonly matching the lining of it. But the vest is white be the frock black, or blue, or grey, or scarlet as sin, or green as the Emerald Isle. More usually it is of thin white stuff, with a colored lining underneath. Always it is fluffy and pouncy, or pouter-pigeony. Net, chiffon, muslin, Liberty silk, very sheer white China silk, or figured lace may be used. The names of things especially devised for such use is moreover legion. One may rejoice in its prevalence; seeing how it lightens the quietest costume, or brightens and freshens one somewhat passé.

The next new is the new skirt, which fits like a glove over the hips, has not a particle of stiffening at the bottom, and is finished with either a narrow hem, or a single ruffle of gathered narrow ribbon. Above the hem, what you will in the way of trimmings, so they be ruffy and do not keep straight around. In the language of baseball, fashion is just now distinctly onto its own curves.

The last and best new is the new lining—Nearsilk. What makes it so valuable is the positive rage for thin frocks. They demand a lining of silk or Nearsilk. Silk is ruinously expensive, and ruinously fragile. Nearsilk which looks as well, comes in all shades of all colors, is a yard wide, and cost but twenty-five cents per yard. Use it for skirts and waists and sleeves—not forgetting that the outer skirt must be made separate, and joined only at the belt.

MARTHA McCULLOCH-WILLIAMS.

TRY ordinary grated horseradish for the removal of the cough which follows the grip. Eat it at meals and between meals.

### CONTENTS.

Achillaea, The Pearl . . . . .	129
A Flower of Flowers . . . . .	130
A Remarkable Town Flower Garden . . . . .	139
A Vegetable Garden in Tennessee . . . . .	140
Artichokes for Pigs . . . . .	136
Agricultural and Horticultural Publications . . . . .	136
Black Cosmos . . . . .	135
Buds and Fruit . . . . .	142
Young Trees, Squash Vines, Watering plants in pots, Paragon Chestnut Tree, Thinning Fruit, Winter Forcing Asparagus, Raising Fruit Seedlings, A Lawn says "Welcome."	140
Briefs . . . . .	140
Crinum pedunculatum . . . . .	133
Crop Prospects . . . . .	136
Cucumbers for Pickles . . . . .	142
Curl-leaf of the Peach . . . . .	141
Clematis, Planting . . . . .	136
Diseases of the Peach . . . . .	136
Do Away with the Fences . . . . .	133
Family Cozy Corner, The . . . . .	143-144
Montana Notes, Under Difficulties, The Chicago Flower Mission, Insects.	144
Fashion Notes, Some Good . . . . .	144
Freesia refracta alba . . . . .	135
Garden Notes . . . . .	144
Hints for the Housekeeper . . . . .	140
Hollyhock Rust . . . . .	136
Letter Box . . . . .	137-138
Corkscrew Begonia, Rex Begonia, Window Box, A Bush-growing Clematis—Grass in a Flag Walk, Twig Blight of Fruit Trees, Propagating Rambler Roses, Rose, Poinciana, Tricolor Geraniums, Hyacinths, La France Roses—Geraniums, Gladiolus Running Out, Poinciana—Anchusa—Wintering Begonias, The Black Calla, Umbrella Plant—Sweet Peas—Ricinus, Blister Beetle, French Name, Pruning Rambler Roses.	136
Jadoo Fibre . . . . .	136
Los Angeles Gardens . . . . .	131
Mound Building vs. Fence Building . . . . .	139
Observations on a Hop Vine . . . . .	141
Oleander, The . . . . .	134
Palms and their Culture . . . . .	131
Perennials, White Flowered . . . . .	129
Plant Lice . . . . .	138
Plants, New Varieties of . . . . .	136
Poetry—The Song of the Wheat . . . . .	141
Rose, The Memorial . . . . .	134
Roses, Our . . . . .	130
Roses, Outdoor Propagation of . . . . .	139
Roses, Pruning . . . . .	135
Roses, Some Indispensable . . . . .	134
Spiraea filipendula alba . . . . .	130
Wild Flowers at Home . . . . .	132

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